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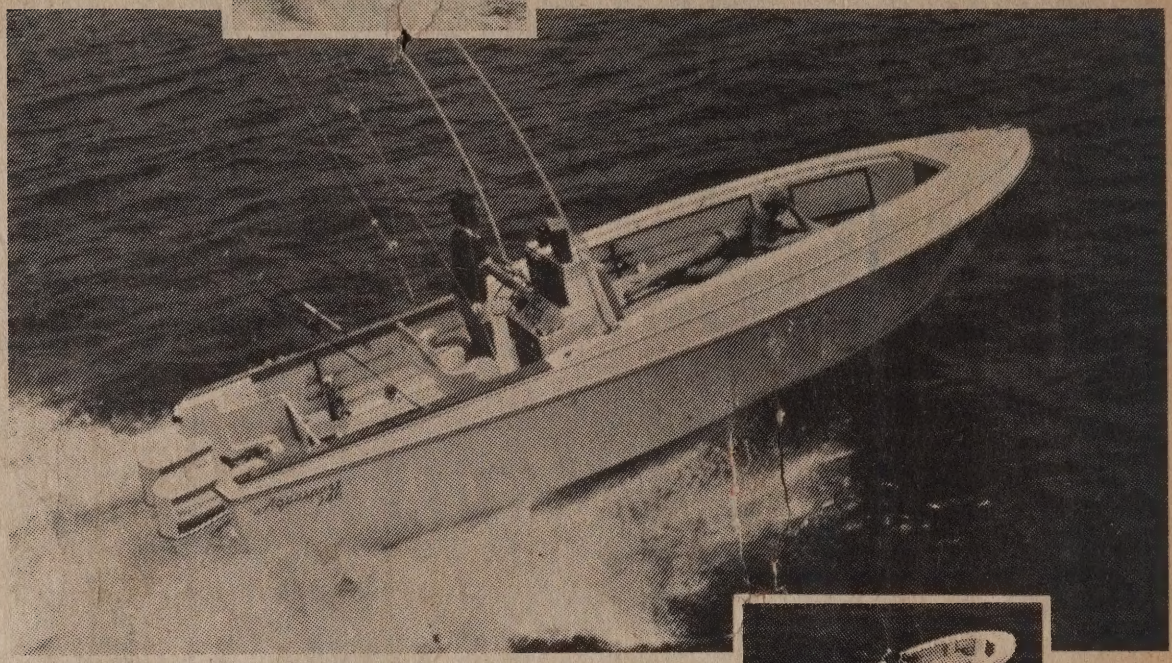

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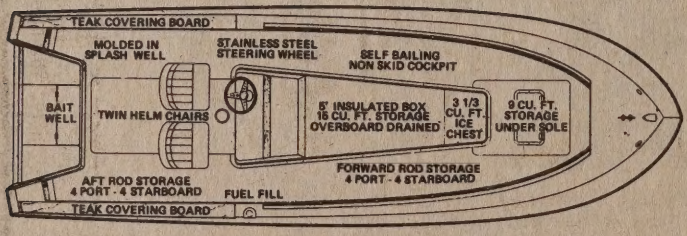
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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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VOL. 13, NO. 13 MARCH 30, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

SPRING MACKEREL

About the Cover—

Think you know a lot about the deep water fish often depicted in books as being "sea monsters"? Well, think again...most of them are only a few inches long. See *Fish Talk* on page 10.

Richard Reina PUBLISHER

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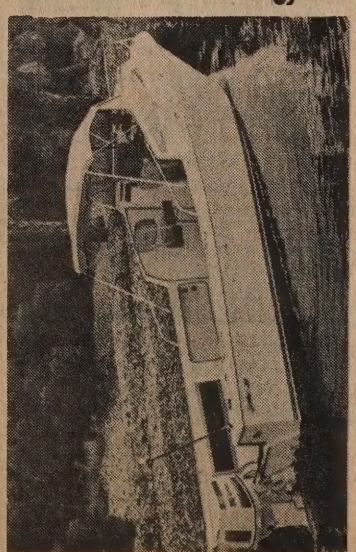

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From the Editor's Head

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Surf Fishermen and Long Island State Park Commission Find Common Grounds for Cooperation

You will recall that several weeks ago a "Pass It On" news item appeared in the publication, asking for interested surf fishermen to participate in a meeting with Mr. John Sheridan, General Manager for the L.I.S.P.C. The meeting was a result of the one permit system for walking surf fishermen, known as the night fishing permit, to be used this year. Surf fishermen have sought such a simple permit system for sometime and the announcement that this was the year that it would be tried was greeted with praise from most quarters: at least we have heard no complaints and have received many positive comments.

However, surf fishermen were quick to point out that several north shore parks were unique and that in past years they had been opened to surf fishermen under very different sets of rules. Surf fishermen realized that rules and practices would have to be clarified, while unique problems at some of the parks would need discussion between the fishermen who use the parks and the L.I.S.P.C. officials who run the parks.

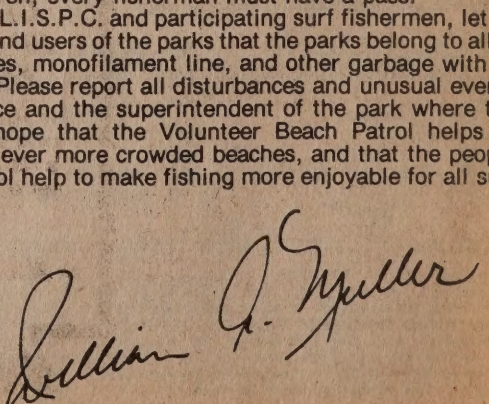
It was the general impression of those attending, that the meeting was successful and we found many items of mutual concern. These items are discussed below. First, there will be **no** night fishing permitted at Orient Point State Park until further notice due to the retirement of the Park's Superintendent. Apparently, when a new superintendent is selected, night fishing will again be allowed. Second, officials of the Park Commission will endeavor to make maximum use of security and seasonal personnel at the north shore parks of Caumsett, Wildwood, Sunken Meadow, and Orient Point State Park in order that each park receives its share of available employees to help enforce order at the parks and maintain the grounds.

Third, fishing will be permitted at all of the parks, seven days a week, night and day. There are several modifications of this rule (e.g., Jones Beach Parking Field 6), so check signs and park officers where there is doubt.

Fourth, the L.I.S.P.C. approved the creation of a Volunteer Beach Patrol. Surf fishermen who wish to participate in the patrol may do so. An identification card, which will be printed by the L.I.S.P.C., will indicate that the holder is a member of the patrol. A letter will come with each card. This letter will list telephone numbers that the fishermen can call in the event of a problem on the beach, and explain the meaning and potential value of the volunteer system. Members will also check permits and answer questions posed by surf fishermen on the beach. The patrol will also serve as a group of liaison people to help the L.I.S.P.C. with problems, when and if they occur. A limited number of cards will be printed and then sent to the Long Island Fisherman for distribution. This publication **will not decide** who gets an ID card; rather we will distribute them according to the recommendations set down by members of the original committee which consisted of surf fishermen from around Long Island. **Please apply as follows.** Send us a postcard indicating your name, address, club affiliation if that applies, and the name of the park or parks that you fish most frequently. If possible, clubs should apply for their share of the ID cards through their club secretary since this will make distribution easier.

Fifth, a surf fisherman's permit will allow his wife and children to also fish under that permit. However, friends and acquaintances must each have their own permit if they are in the car with the permit holder. In other words, except for wives and children, every fisherman must have a pass.

Sixth, on behalf of the L.I.S.P.C. and participating surf fishermen, let us remind all surf fishermen and users of the parks that the parks belong to all of us. Let's take our bait boxes, monofilament line, and other garbage with us when we leave the beach. Please report all disturbances and unusual events to the L.I.S. Parkway Police and the superintendent of the park where the incident occurred. Let's hope that the Volunteer Beach Patrol helps to minimize problems on our ever more crowded beaches, and that the people who participate in the patrol help to make fishing more enjoyable for all surf fishermen.



CLUB NEWS

1977 BABYLON TUNA CLUB CONTEST TROPHY WINNERS

It was a good year for the fishermen of the Babylon Tuna Club. In 1977, nine new Club records were set and three new world records.

True Albacore: 56 lb. 1 oz.—V. Jesenitschnig.
Albacore: 16 lbs. 11 oz.—K. Miller.
Blackfish: 12 lbs. 3 oz.—J. Schneider.
Bluefish: 20 lbs. 1 oz.—J. Schneider.
Bonito: 12 lbs. 8 oz.—M. Fischer.
Codfish: 39 lbs. 9 oz.—T. Grell.
Dolphin: 18 lbs. 14 oz.—J. Koszaka.
Flounder: 2 lbs. 6 oz.—T. Grell.
Fluke: 13 lbs. 10 oz.—E. Grell.
Mako Shark: 322 lbs.—G. Grebe.
Marlin: 53 lbs.—S. Pace.
Pollock: 39 lbs. 12 oz.—B. Schilk.
Shark: 920 lbs.—F. Kammerer.
Striped Bass: 45 lbs. 4 oz.—P. Fracalvieri.
Tuna, trolled: 217 lbs. 8 oz.—J. Carrione.
Weakfish: 13 lbs. 10 oz.—E. Grell.

PARKVILLE FISHING CLUB OFFICERS FOR 1978

The members of the Parkville Fishing Club of Brooklyn elected officers for the 1978 season at their March 12 meeting. The following members were elected:

President: Jack Kelly; Vice. Pres.: Pete Cicorio; Treasurer: Dominic Esposito; Secretary: Pat DelPurgatorio; Sgt.-At-Arms: Hank Apere; Trustees: Joe Mendoza and Don Bridgetts.

The Club has chartered Capt. Pete Lynch's boat, the Helen M of Sheepshead Bay for eight trips this coming season, commencing with a whiting trip on April 16, 1978.

Due to failing health, John Soldiviero, President the past four years, had to step down. Friends from Sheepshead Bay could cheer him up by sending him a card at the V.A. Hospital, Poly Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. All members wish John a speedy and complete recovery.

FISHING BUGS OF BROOKLYN ANNUAL DANCE & AWARDS NIGHT

The Fishing Bugs of Brooklyn are pleased to announce that their Valentine's Dance held on February 11, 1978 in Brooklyn was a great success. Over 130 people attending the affair enjoyed fine live music and good food. Our 1977 Fishing Awards were presented that night, with the following winners receiving beautiful trophies:

Striped Bass: 1st Prize: Joseph Franzo, 18 lbs. even. 2nd Prize: Richard Apman, 17 lbs. even.
Fluke: 1st Prize: Louis Greco, 9 lbs.

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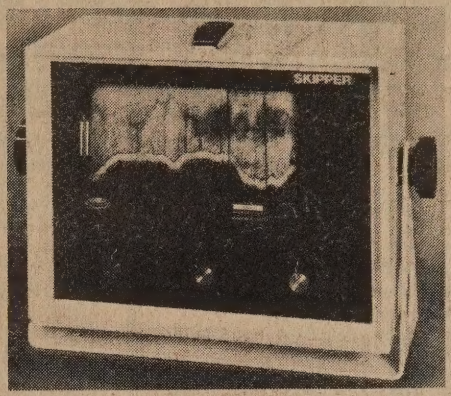

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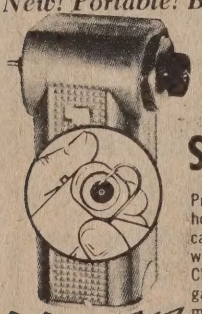

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Blackfish: Marie Conwell, 5 lbs. 3 oz.

Freshwater Prize: Sam Ballin, 2 lbs. 8 oz., Brown Trout.

PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB NEW AND 1977 FISHING RESULTS

President: Cheryl Dippel; 1st Vice Pres.: Raymond Terman; 2nd Vice Pres.: Frank Zampariello: Treas.: Carl Dippel, Jr.; Financial Secretary: Robert Cromeyn, and Recording Secretary: Fred King.

PFC's Top Ten:

1. Thomas Forbes; **2.** Milton Dill; **3.** George Dietz; **4.** William Rockwell; **5.** Raymond Terman; **6.** Joel Runkel; **7.** James Holman, Jr.; **8.** Robt. Cromeyn **9.** Francis Ambrose; **10.** Frank Zampariello.

Schaefer Contest—Top 10

1. Milton Dill; **2.** Thomas Forbes; **3.** Francis Ambrose; **4.** William Rockwell; **5.** Raymond Terman; **6.** George Dietz; **7.** Robert Cromeyn; **8.** Richard Guarelia; **9.** Joel Runkel, and **10.** James Holman, Jr.

L.I. Fisherman Contest—Top 10

1. Milton Dill; **2.** Thomas Forbes; **3.** Raymond Terman; **4.** Robert Cromeyn; **5.** George Dietz; **6.** William Rockwell; **7.** Francis Ambrose; **8.** Richard Guarelia; **9.** James Holman, Jr., and **10.** Dr. Thomas Ganetis.

1977 Specie's Winners:

Striped Bass—Boat: James Holman, Jr.—31 lbs. 9 oz.

Striped Bass—Surf: Milton Dill—44 lbs. 2 oz.

Bluefish—Boat: Dennis Armstrong—18 lbs. 2 oz.

*Milton Dill—19 lbs. 4 oz.

Weakfish—Boat: **Dr. Thomas Ganetis—10 lbs. 8 oz.

Weakfish—Surf: Wm. Caldwell—8 lbs. 4 oz.

Flounder: Charles Moffett, Jr.—2 lbs. 8 oz.

Fluke: James Holman, Jr.—11 lbs. 8 oz.

Blackfish: Charles Moffett, Jr.—7 lbs. 9 oz.

Kingfish: Joseph Erny—1 lb. 2 oz.

Cod/Pollock: *Dr. Thomas Ganetis—26 lbs.

Tuna: Milton Dill—62 lbs. 12 oz.

Trout: Wm. Caldwell—2 lbs. 15 oz.

Freshwater Bass: Francis Ambrose—2 lbs. 9 oz.

*** New All-Time Club Record Fish.**

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Pass It On...

LIBBA ANNUAL BEACH CLEAN-UP

The Long Island Beach Buggy Association is sponsoring the annual beach clean-up of the Democrat Pt. area at Robert Moses State Park. The operation will take place April 15 & 16 at 8 AM, in parking field #2 at Moses. All groups and individuals welcome. Any additional information can be obtained. Call after 6 PM, Knute Habl, 516-581-8595, 212-296-2909.

"CASH FOR CONSERVATION CONTEST" ANNOUNCED FOR LONG ISLANDERS

The Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Company will hold a "Cash for Conservation Contest" on Saturday, April 1—from 9 AM to 4:30 p.m.—at the Reynolds Recycling Plant Service Center at 73A Bloomingdale Road in Hicksville.

Three cash prizes—$25, $15, and $10—will be awarded to Long Island residents and organizations which that day bring in the most pounds of recyclable aluminum in addition to the seventeen cents-per-pound rate normally paid for aluminum beverage cans and other household aluminum.

Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Company pays seventeen cents per pound for all-aluminum beverage cans and other clean household aluminum such as pie plates, foil, frozen food and dinner trays and dip, pudding and meat containers. Certain other items, including aluminum siding, gutters, storm door and window frames, and lawn furniture tubing are also worth seventeen cents per pound. This aluminum must be free of all foreign materials, cut to lengths not exceeding three feet and should not be mixed with cans.

Additional information is available by calling toll-free (800) 243-6000. The Center purchases aluminum from the public every Thursday and Friday, from 1 to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CHUM LINES

COMMENTS ON USE OF RADIOS

I have just read the article on radios for fishermen by Mr. Al Nunes-Vais and have found it an excellent and highly informative article. There is one point in the article that I and many of my fellow radio-equipped fishermen on the North Shore would like to comment on. Many of us have commented on this from time-to-time

and would like to express our opinions.

Mr. Nunes-Vais stated that with CB, a club or group of fishermen will pick a channel (usually 13—the marine frequency) to call each other as to the location of a "bonanza" without telling the whole world.

I realize that many times a fisherman has called the location of a school of fish and seemed to have every boat in the world descend on the location. This would be fine except in the instance when one of them decides to roar into the middle of the school or troll through them, thus causing them to sound and be lost to all. This, understandably, leaves quite a bitter taste and the individual inevitably vows never to "be a nice guy" again. This, unfortunately, has happened to me—as I'm sure it has to many of the other readers.

There is nothing more frustrating than to be fishing one area without any luck, while the radio is constantly blaring out that one fisherman is killing them and calling his buddies to come to "point X, a mile east of where he and his pals were fishing last Tuesday afternoon, and two miles south of where old Joe caught the big bass three days ago, and if you see Fred's boat I'm a half-mile west of him." This undoubtedly will give everyone the exact place I'm talking about, right? When someone "not in the gang" calls and ask for the location, all they receive is static and silence.

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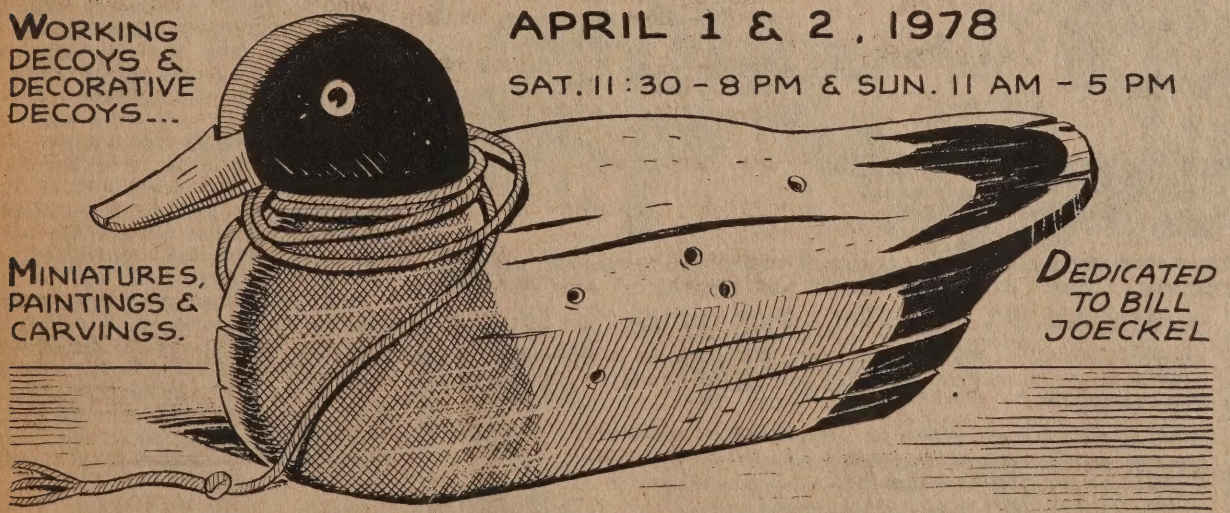

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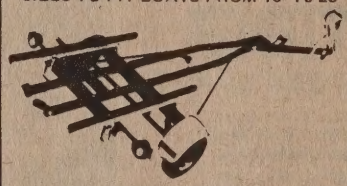

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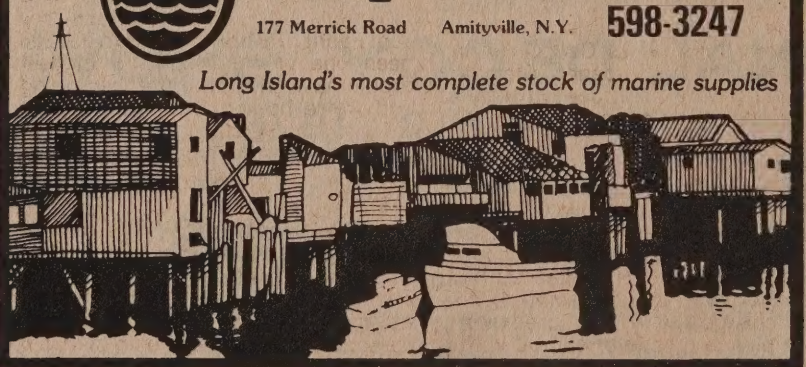

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skill that they will catch the entire school, or do they have that bitter taste in their mouths. I have heard these fishermen many times and it seems that when the shoe is on the other foot, the same voice will call for the location and when not answered, will let out a stream of foul language about those who are catching fish.

There is no clear-cut answer to the situation as some fishermen may change and others will not. There are, however, some suggestions that I can make.

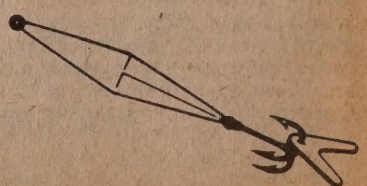
Perhaps, if after giving the location of a school, you see a boat roaring up on you, give a call and tell him to ease off. Sometimes a boat coming up at flank speed cannot see exactly the location or position of the school in relation to your boat and is letting enthusiasm carry him away. A little courtesy on your part would not hurt either and I'm sure the other fishermen would appreciate it, even if you put it rather strongly.

If you receive a call and travel to the location and find the other boats casting while you are only equipped for trolling, don't troll through the school—this will ensure that the other boats will never call again. Try to stay outside of the boats casting for the fish. If you are set up for casting and arrive as others are trolling, use common sense and stay out of their way; that old bitter taste comes on strong when after setting up a troll you have to suddenly swerve to avoid a caster who has just run right in front and stopped dead in the water suddenly (this usually happens when the guy is about twenty feet ahead). Common courtesy here can go a long way through the season.

If fishing is to be a sport that breeds a fraternity—as has been written many times—perhaps a little common sense, common courtesy and consideration for others can be exercised. If this can be done, then perhaps the use of the radio can be a great help on those days when things are a little slow.

The next time you are out and are lucky to be into fish, remember the last time you had to listen to others bailing fish at a near, but undisclosed location, and the frustration you felt—especially before you decide to let the others stay in the dark.

I sincerely hope that this is not taken as sour grapes, as I had a fairly good 1977 season and did call others in each time I was into fish. I run the "Carrie-On" out of Wading River and if you hear me when I'm out and into fish—you'll know about it. **Tom Brady, Wading River, N.Y.**



NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Council Adds Bluefish as Management Concern

The March 8-9 meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, held at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Philadelphia, produced a flurry of activity as items backed up from last month's snowed-out meeting came up for discussion. As noted in a recent column, there is good reason to believe that American tuna seiners will start fishing for bluefish this summer. This potentially large-scale operation could well have a severe impact upon the mid-Atlantic sport fishery, which is presently heavily dependent on that species. It had been expected that there would be some debate about a proposal to include bluefish as one of the Council's management responsibilities. I had tried to do this when the Council was first organized and was badly beaten at the time. Therefore, it was decided to leave this question for new business, which was scheduled for after lunch on March 9.

As it turned out, there was no debate at all. One of the state commissioners who had orginally felt that bluefish should be handled by the states, Jim Douglas of Virginia, noted that conditions had changed and proposed that bluefish be added as a Council responsibility at the same time he was introducing a motion for joint Council-State management of fluke. The motion passed unanimously, and Council staff (which had prepared some very helpful background information) will get started right away.

When a large group of party boat captains arrived for the "debate" Thursday afternoon, the Council had already adjourned. Executive Director John Bryson; N.Y. Marine District Chief Tony Taormina; N.J. Member Bill Feinberg, and myself, waited for them and had an informal session. Naturally, they were delighted to hear that the Council was fully aware of the potential danger posed by the tuna seiners getting into the bluefish business (what the seiners did to the bluefin tuna is painfully obvious), but all our news wasn't good. The fact of the matter is that we can't do anything about the problem this year. What is being proposed is a domestic operation and perfectly legal. The bluefish are to be seined by American ships and brought into Cape May for freezing. The reason for all this is the export markets available in Africa and Japan. However, as long as the fish are caught and handled by Americans, there is nothing wrong with that. Indeed, the general policy of the Government is to encourage such exports.

In this particular case, if a large-scale seine fishery had adverse impacts on the huge sport fishery, there would be little problem involved in restricting or eliminating such a fishery. Unfortunately, control of the domestic fisheries can only be accomplished by a Council fishery management plan. Even with the staff getting started on it right away, it will take a minimum of eight to ten months to get an approved plan in place. We can only hope that the obvious feeling of the Council in this matter will cause those involved in the new fishery to think twice about an investment that may well only involve a single season's fishing.

Council Advisory Sub-Panels Meet For First Time

On March 7, just prior to the Mid-Atlantic Council's regular meeting in Philadelphia, the first group of advisory sub-panels got a briefing on the law and then discussed the plans affecting their various concerns. Long Island Fisherman Editor, Bill Muller chaired the Squid and Butterfish Sub-Panel, providing a voice for the importance of these species as prey for larger game and food fish. Most of the other panelists are commercially-oriented. Also meeting were sub-panels on sharks, mackerel, surf clams, and gear conflicts.

Along with Dr. Bill Hargis, Director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, I served as Council liaison with the shark sub-panel. Members attending were Capt. Joe Moakley of Montauk; Jack Murrey of Brielle; Jerry Kenney of Jersey City (outdoor editor of Daily News); Nick Karas, Newsday outdoor writer, and Chairman Jack Casey, probably the leading expert on sharks of the Atlantic, who works for the National Marine Fisheries Service at its Narragansett, R.I. lab. We came up with some significant changes to a very preliminary draft plan and hope to end up with a simple document that will preclude a foreign fishery and provide the standby management authority to deal with any emergencies. Our knowledge of the population levels of various sharks is almost non-existent. Hopefully, preparation of this plan will spur further research in this area.

The mackerel sub-panel under the Chairmanship of Brielle Captain, Howard Bogan might have been expected to stir up some waves, but it turned out that both sport and commercial representatives were satisfied with the 9,000 metric tons recreational and 5,000 metric tons commercial split of this year's allocation. Among those sitting on the mackerel panel were Bob Duffy, outdoor editor, Newark Star-Ledger; Richard Miller, Executive Director, Long Island Fishermen's Association (commercial); Al Lindroth, Freeport party boat skipper (Capt. Al); Hank Schaefer, N.J. Fisherman writer, and Lou Rodia, Cape May publicity chief.

The Council advisory panel committee met during the meeting and added seventeen more advisors, including Capt. Frank Mundus of Montauk; Tom Becker of the Tampa Fleet in Sheepshead Bay; Ron Kometa, Chester, Pa. outdoor writer; Capt. Andy Applegate, Atlantic City; Capt. Les Baletti of the Palace Fleet, Hoboken, and Bill Masin, President of the Montauk Boatman's Association, and the Third District Boatman's Association. Panels for bluefish and fluke were authorized and will be filled at the April meeting. We also decided to establish panels on groundfish (cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder) and billfish; plans of interest to the Mid-Atlantic, but prepared by other lead councils.

While the Council received some very useful information and ideas from its advisors at the March meeting, perhaps the most important aspect of that interaction was the new appreciation of the Council's work on the part of the advisors. Being part of the picture, the advisors will now be able to accurately pass along information relative to council plans and intentions to the interest groups they represent. Public information has been one of the Council's biggest problems right from the beginning and we're hoping that the advisors will help to overcome that gap.

By-Catch Puts Italians Out of Fishery

Enforcement of the 200-Mile Limit continues to get stricter. The Italians found that out when they were forced to leave without taking their squid allocation. The problem was an excessive by-catch of whiting (silver hake). They were allocated a by-catch of twenty metric tons, but NMFS came up with calculations showing they had taken thirty-two metric tons. An Italian delegation protested in Washington about the shutdown and proceeded to investigate the situation. They found that their countrymen had actually taken eighty metric tons of whiting—four times the allocation! Needless to say, the protest was dropped and the Italian fleet returned home.

Ambassador Negroponte Addresses Council Meeting

One of the highlights of the March Council meeting was an address by Ambassador John Negroponte, Chief of the State Department Fisheries Section. The Ambassador sat in on the Wednesday morning session and

(Continued on page 11.)

FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

Monsters of the Deep!

2001! The ship moved noiselessly through the black ink of space, illuminated only now and then by the lights of the creatures that periodically fluttered in front of the viewfinder. Then, suddenly, in front of them there was a huge pair of gaping jaws, accented with the eerie stare of two sinister eyes. It was hard to imagine that those teeth were real, for when the mouth was open as wide as it could be there was still only the smallest of space between the teeth of the upper and lower jaw. When the creature suddenly snapped its jaws, the points of the teeth easily overlapped the upper and lower jaw bones. The Captain ordered the phasers armed and the crew ready to fire lest the ship be engulfed completely by this evil beast.

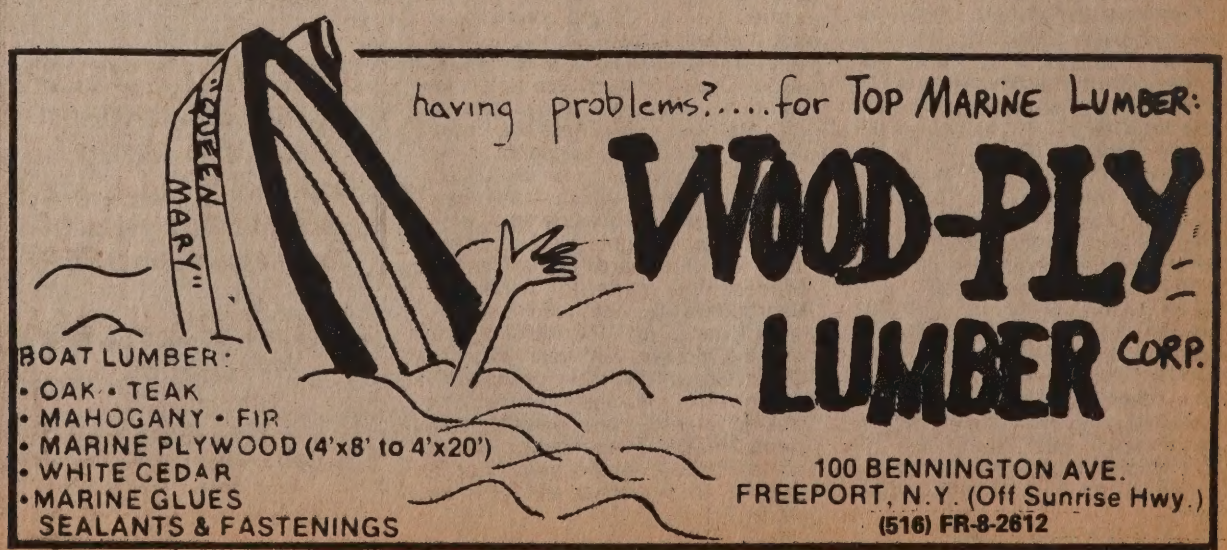
AN ADVENTURE IN DEEP SPACE WHILE SEARCHING FOR ALIEN LIFE IN THE NEXT CENTURY? Could be; but actually it's my way of introducing a world that is every bit as strange as the adventures of "Star Trek" or "Star Wars" and as hard as it may be to believe, even more remote from human consciousness! It is the world of the ABYSS!

AND THERE THEY SWARMED IN TOTAL DARKNESS. We have talked often about how the ocean isn't a homogeneously productive entity. Clearly, the closer we get to shore, with certain exceptions that result from up-welling of the rich ocean bottom water, the more productive the ocean becomes. Thus, the greenish-blue waters of our estuaries produce more diversity and quantity than the deep water between the Continents. The water on the continental shelves is reasonably productive too, but the area between the continental shelves is for all intents and purposes a desert! Humans on ships may encounter occasional surface life, but they perceive nothing of the physical habitat that may extend straight down for five or six thousand meters, or the creatures that may live there. Can any of us imagine, for example, that there are trenches, deep grooves or slits in the floor of the ocean, that reach depths of 37,000 feet. Hi folks, that's about seven miles! And there is life down there: life that can withstand the pressure of seven miles of water pressing down on it every second of every day, forever. But these are invertebrates, creatures without backbones, that call the trenches their homes and our concern is with fish.

LET THERE BE LIGHT! One can think of the ocean as being very roughly divided into two portions: that which receives light and that which does not. The upper portion receives the light and we call it the photic zone. Much of the cycle of life as we know it takes place in the photic zone. The sunlight is utilized by tiny plants through a process known as photosynthesis to make food and produce oxygen. These plants are consumed in great quantities by herbivorous animals. The plant-eating animals, incidentally, include the smallest zooplankton and the great whales. The smaller herbivores are eaten by small predators which, in turn, are eaten by larger predators and so the cycle goes, until we begin talking about a small group of relatively recently evolved bony fishes that we call "our" game fish! This is the world that we see and, more often, although we do not see it we know of it through our indirect contact with the game fish that we pursue in relatively shallow water. That is, fishing the waters close to shore it is difficult to see further down than a few feet because the productivity of the shallow inshore water gives the water a clouded or "dirty" appearance; but we sense the world below via our fishing experiences. If we catch several bass, blues, or cod, we reach conclusions about what is going on below. Modern graphing depth recorders also give us a somewhat condense, but otherwise accurate picture of the bottom structure as well. This is the part of the photic zone that we know and can relate to, while the offshore equivalent remains an enigma!

LET THERE BE NO LIGHT! If we were to dive down into the ocean the light would slowly fade, absorbed by plants and the water itself. First the red light and last the blue, but in general the light fades away. The speed of the absorption varies from place to place. In the lower reaches of the Hudson River all light may be extinguished within only a few inches, while offshore in the Gulf Stream it may take hundreds of feet before that point is reached. Whatever the distance, there comes a point where there is no light from above and we have entered the aphotic zone.

A WORLD OF ALMOST NO CHANGE. The great depths of the oceans change very little in their physical quality. Things like temperature, salinity (amount of salt), pH (acidity or alkalinity), and the nature of dissolved substances do not change. This is because it is a world buffered from the atmosphere by great expanses of water. Waves cannot be felt and the tides lose their



turbulent character that makes the daily rushes of water at the surface the focal point of songs and poetry. Why don't we know very much about this remote place? Is it possible that we have traveled to the moon as a race yet cannot describe, utilize, or accurately study the depths of the oceans?

SEA MONSTERS! Early civilized man saw the open ocean as a horrible and dangerous place where giant sea monsters lurked, waiting to consume whole ships or do the devil's bidding. Thus, these early sailors avoided long journeys across the open ocean, preferring to island hop whenever possible in order to stay clear of the sea where no land was! The irony is that there are sea monsters in the depths, but the ones that early sailors saw and feared were seen only in their dreams and fantasies. What does the term monster imply? Is it something grotesque? Is it something huge? Is it something dangerous? The giant squid are huge and perhaps early seamen caught a glimpse or two or them, but they are hardly dangerous; they were, and are, undoubtedly more afraid of us than we are of them. The big squid are grotesque too, and the larger they become, the more horrifying they would appear what with gaping tentacular suckers and human-like eyes and a fleshy head surrounding a mouth that looks more like a parrot beak than the supple mouth of a spineless mollusk.

IN TRUTH, THE EARLY SAILORS NEVER SAW THE REAL SEA MONSTERS! Real sea monsters? Sure enough! In the introduction to this discussion, I described a fish with huge eyes and viper-like teeth. This was not a figment of my vivid and strange imagination; it was, rather, a fairly accurate description of a viperfish (**Chauliodus macouni**). However, unless the scale of the viewfinder was way, way off, the captain of the ship was not likely to blast it out of existence with the fire power at his disposal. Why? Because the viperfish, all six or seven inches of it, is not likely to threaten even the flimsiest of submarine vessels!

THE VIPERFISHES. There are three species of viperfishes, and they are very similar. They have long bodies with large blunt heads. The dorsal fin is quite pointed with relatively few rays. There may be a second portion of the dorsal fin near the base of the tail. The scales are large and arranged in such a way that they protect the surface of the fish like armor. Several of the species contain luminous organs inside their mouths, on the surface of their bodies, or on the dorsal fin. The luminous organs probably have many uses, although much of this is only guesswork, since the fish are so hard to study. Remember, it is a dark world and the light-producing organs may help the viperfishes to locate their food. The light also probably plays a role in mating—helping the well-scattered fish to find each other at mating time. Then in some viperfish, the light organ on the dorsal fin bends forward and scientists believe that it acts as a lure to attract smaller beasts to their demise.

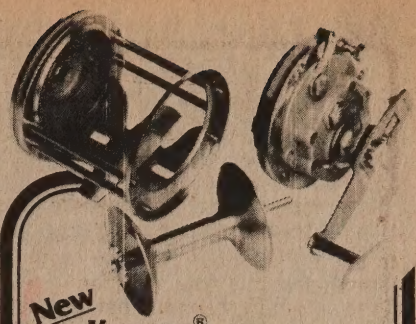
THE BUSINESS END OF THE ANIMAL. Although the viperfishes do not exceed twelve inches in length, they are among the ocean's most fearsome predators. In the day, they can be found at depths of between 5,000 and 8,000 feet and at night, they may come as close to the surface as 1,500 feet because food is more abundant. I tell you where you can find them just in case you plan on a face to face encounter of the weird kind. Like all deep sea fishes, the eyes are out of proportion to the body, being much too large. However, it is essential that the eyes of these animals have the ability to gather as much light as possible because when they flash their luminous organs there is pitifully little light displayed even though it may carry great distances in the clear deep water. The teeth could easily have been dreamed up by any of the great raconteurs of horror. They are needle-like spears which are sharp enough to penetrate the bodies of their victims and long enough to hold even large prey with little chance for escape. They are not picky about size either. In the deeps, life is not jammed rock-to-rock as it may be on the inshore scene. Productivity is low and so both prey and predator are spread out. Any successful predator will have to eat almost anything that wanders by, and so the viperfishes will not shy away from prey that is almost their equal in size.

Next week: How do they make the light, and a look at other deep sea monsters.

National Scene

(Continued from page 9.)

then gave a brief rundown on his section's activities and concerns. He also fielded a number of questions. One of his assertions was that the State Department doesn't let any non-fisheries considerations interfere with its decisions. There was considerable skepticism voiced over that point. Perhaps this is true in the area of human rights, which the Administration claims is considered in every area. If human rights are a concern in fisheries, it's hard to fathom the concessions made to Cuba. Mr. Negroponte also defended the handling of the LASKARA incident. This was the incident last year when the Coast Guard had the goods on a Polish vessel, but was prevented from making the seizure by the State Department. Ambassador Negroponte claims that the guidelines for seizures are now clear and no longer secret.



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Surf Side with John Fritz

It's A Start

The first crack in winter's indomitable grip on the Island's fishing scene is beginning to show. The early flounder fishermen have been at it for over a month whenever the weather allowed. For those of us who seek "Ol Roccus," the wait has been one of seemingly endless longevity, our only option being the bass trapped in the thermal effluent at Northport.

Now that the last finishing touches have been made, our equipment ready, the prospect of taking a few bass from the waters of the North Shore will herald the start of a brand new season. The scarcity of small bass in our area for the past several years has produced uncertain results, but two qualities inherent in the surf-casting clan are perseverance and hope. These attributes will furnish the enticement that this year will witness the return of the good spring runs of striped bass in our area. While the first run of stripers are generally small fish and the choice of locations for seeking this species is limited, it is a start and the season can only improve as the year progresses.

With the advent of milder weather making conditions more pleasant, those of you who have been lying dormant all winter have a chance to savor the tang of salt air once again while supplementing your menu with fresh caught fish. The beginning of April offers the bass fisherman two choices: Crabmeadow Beach and Little Neck Bay.

Crabmeadow, which holds bass entrapped in the hot water discharge of the power plant, can be fished throughout the winter. This area contains fish held over from the previous year, so it cannot be considered part of the spring run. Little Neck Bay is the traditional spot for the first fresh bass of the year to be taken. Although it is not as picturesque as our glistening South Shore beaches, this mud flat on the city line has harbored sufficient quantities of bass to make past trips rewarding.

Little Neck Bay lies adjacent to the Cross Island Parkway in Bayside, Queens. The western shore of this Bay is the most readily available to the general public, but due to the fact that the Parkway restricts widespread access to the shore line, the approach through Crocheron Park is the most favored. Park your car by the pond in the Park, make sure you lock it; walk across the pedestrian bridge and you'll find yourself in fishing country. The more popular spots lie to the south, or right, but any area along this shore will produce.

For years I've heard that those who can gain access to the private properties on the eastern shore find more fruitful waters. Petersen's Cove is one name that repeatedly pops up year after year with catches of fine bass. Parking seems to be the major problem when fishing the Nassau shore line, but since I'm not one of the privileged few, I cannot say this with certainty.

Anyway, back to the public areas.

The most productive methods for this area at this time of the year is bottom fishing at night using worms for bait. The standard fish-finder without a cork is the preferred terminal rig. Since there are no strong currents to be encountered along this shore, your sinker should just be heavy enough to facilitate your cast—say two ounces, with three the most. Therefore, any medium sized outfit will suffice, bearing in mind that the lighter you go, the more sport to be enjoyed.

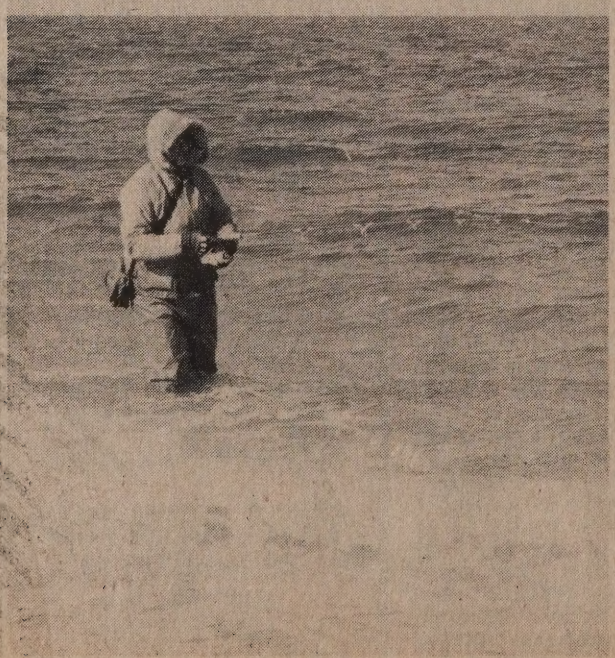
The recommended tide is two hours before and two hours after flood when there is sufficient water to entice the bass to grub along the mud flats seeking tidbits on which to feed.

Strong winds out of the north quarter quickly muddies the water here, so pick a night of gentle breezes with high water after sunset. Elaborate equipment is not needed; just warm clothing and waterproof boots.

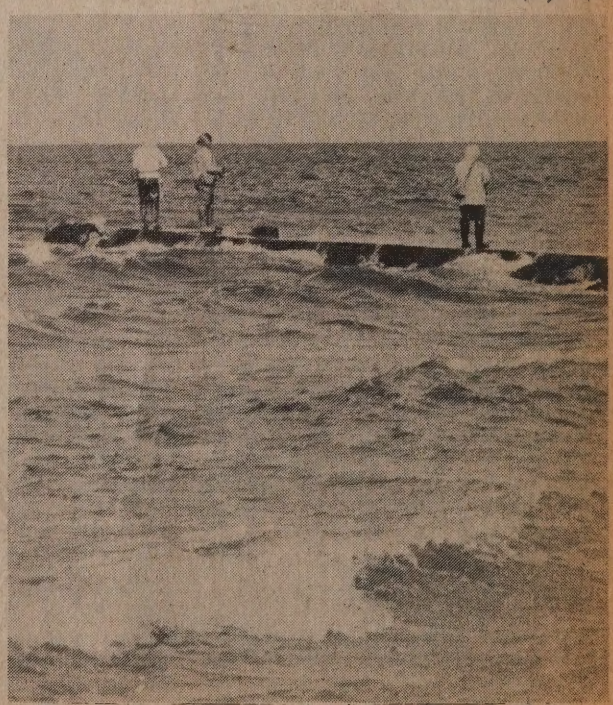
Crabmeadow probably offers the angler more chance of success with the added bonus that bass have been taken during the daylight hours in the past. Remember, though, that bass fishing after dark will produce more fish.

Access to the Crabmeadow parking lot has usually been available in the past during the off-season. Park your car in the western side and proceed to the beach. The tip and right side of the jetty found here can be fished if you dislike walking. Otherwise, travel west and try the area between the white building at the base of the hill and the wooden pier a few hundred yards further on. If you really

(Continued on page 37.)



Cold northwest winds have no effect on the surfcaster fishing for winter striped bass at Crab Meadow Beach. *Photo by Dick Mermon*



Three hardy surf fishermen brave the cold winds of January and February to catch stripers in the warm water flow of the Northport LILCO power plant. *Photo by Dick Mermon*

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) THIS FISH IS THE BIGGEST MINNOW IN THE U.S. IT IS THE COLORADO SQUAW FISH ☐
EASTERN BIG MOUTH SHINER ☐
FALL-FISH ☐

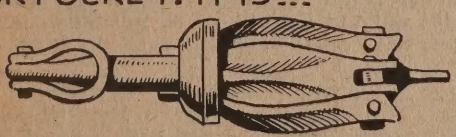
ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) WITH EYES ON THE TOP OF THEIR HEADS, HORSE-SHOE CRABS FIND FOOD BY TOUCH AND SMELL.
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(3) THIS FISHING REPTILE IS THE OLDEST INHABITANT OF THE NORTHEAST ACCORDING TO GEOLOGICAL RECORDS. IT IS THE DINICHTHYS ☐ ELASMO-SAURUS ☐ PHYTOSAUR ☐

(4) THIS MARINE ITEM IS SMALL ENOUGH TO BE CARRIED IN A TACKLE BOX OR POCKET. IT IS...



(5) THIS IS A MALE ☐ FEMALE SALMON ☐ IN THE SPAWNING SEASON.

(6) THE MEAT FROM THIS TURTLE MADE POSSIBLE EUROPEAN EXPLORATION OF THE NEW WORLD FROM 1500-1800. IT IS THE GREEN TURTLE ☐
LEATHERBACK ☐
HAWKSBILL ☐

1 - COLORADO SQUAWFISH, 6 FT. & 100 LBS. 2 - TRUE. 3 - THE PHYTOSAUR WITH NOSTRILS OVER HIS EYES COULD FLOAT JUST UNDER THE SURFACE TO GET NEAR HIS PREY. 4 - A LIGHTWEIGHT FOLDING ANCHOR FOR CANOES OR SMALL BOATS. 5 - MALE. 6 - THE GREEN TURTLE NOW DECIMATED BY OVERUSE.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

SPRING FLOUNDER PRIMER

★ *Part Three* ★

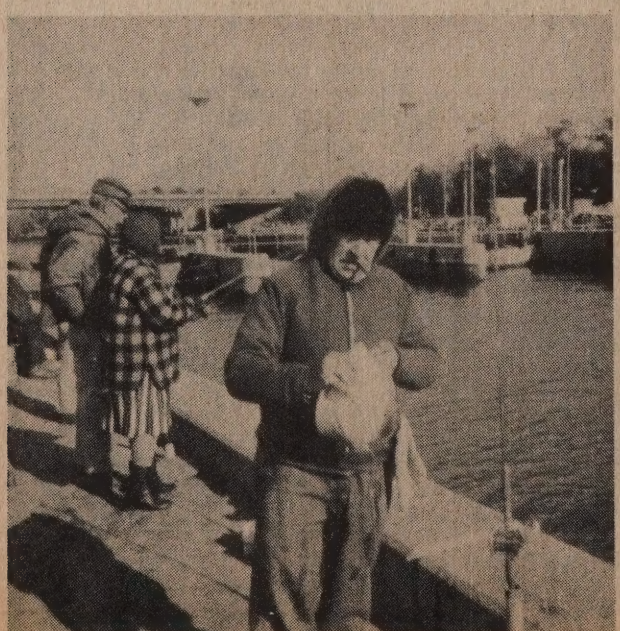
In Parts One and Two, spinning tackle, tandem rigs, terminal gear, baits, and chumming for spring flounder were discussed. If you are interested in catching your share of flounder this spring, it's probably a good idea to re-read these background articles. If they aren't available, check Page Three of this Issue for ordering back copies.

This week we get to the nitty-gritty of what all this has been leading to: how to catch spring flounder. There are essentials you must know, and each are dependent upon how you intend to fish. For instance, are you planning on going it alone? This takes self-confidence and I'm all for you. By trial and error, you are sure to discover those fine points of the game which no fishing article can ever teach. Expect it to be lonesome fishing at times and often discouraging, but you'll be rewarded with a keen fish-sense once you devote yourself wholeheartedly to this solitary type of fishing. Perhaps you intend making your first trip with an experienced fishing buddy. This method will certainly remove the guesswork and self-doubt.

Are you going to fish from shore or a boat? Each need specialized fishing methods.

Do you plan on trying your luck aboard a party boat? This is the easiest fishing method of all, for the responsibility and know-how needed to locate fish is left to the skipper—and locate them, he will. For my money, I believe party boat fishing is the quickest way to learn the flounder game. Not only is professional help at your beck and call, but those many experienced fishermen lining the rail will gladly show you the way to put flounder in your bucket.

Let's start, however, with the assumption that you are planning to go it alone and that shore fishing appeals to you. This method of flounder fishing is extremely popular, but to my mind it can also be the most frustrating for the beginner. As any experienced fisherman will tell you, good shore fishing spots for flounder are few and far between. (Many productive spots are closely-guarded secrets; many front on private property.) But you've got to find a good fish-producing spot to be successful, and there's no easy way around this.



Shinnecock Canal "regulars" know the best flounder spots.

I can only suggest that you make inquiries of other fishermen and also check the reports in The Fisherman or your daily newspaper's fishing column. It is important to bear in mind that these reports are accurate at the time of publication, but if you allow too long a period of time to pass before taking advantage of that information, those spots may no longer produce when you get there. There are many reasons for this aside from the natural daily movement of the fish.

For instance, making your initial flounder trip toward the end of the season often proves discouraging. It is then when an influx of warm water can be expected at any time. Should this happen before your planned trip—even the day before—it will send the flounder scooting to those deeper, cooler areas more to their liking and, of course, out of reach of shore fishermen. There isn't a thing you can do about it except to make up your mind that next spring you'll start your shore flounder fishing earlier.

Okay, with that understood, let's consider that you've found a spot where you've been told flounder fishing is good and you are now standing on the shore or bank of this strange area, spinning tackle in hand.

You've baited your hooks and made your first cast. What's the next step besides the obvious one of waiting? You take the slack out of your line so that you have full, sensitive control over the bite of even the most cautious flounder. You wait some more, allowing the fish time to sense your bait. If there's no action in twenty minutes, put on fresh bait and try again. Stil no takers? It's time to move—but not too far away, say twenty-five feet, and try again.

While we both wait for that first flounder, let me say you have just learned something of importance that pertains to all methods of flounder fishing. Flounder **must** be hunted. They won't come to you unless chum is used, but if deep water isn't immediately available right before you, chumming won't help one bit. (I told you shore fishing was frustrating.)

But now your cast to this new spot brings results. A flounder finds your bait and you land your first fish. Elated, you cast again. You hook another, and another, Maybe you'll nail one more and then the action ceases. Once again you move. This is repeated whenever necessary until the day's sport is over.

And that is the way to shore fish for flounder in a strange place. A word of caution: if you want fish in that bucket, don't anchor yourself in one spot as many shore fishermen do. If you do, you've got only yourself to blame should you fail to catch fish. You must keep moving and trying new spots.

It's a tough way to fish, I know, but not without its rewards. Those pockets that produced fish will produce again on the next trip. Mark them well and remember to give them a try in the fall. They will deliver then, too.

But what happens when you select such fishing areas as Shinnecock Canal or the Jones Beach fishing piers where crowds are common? In such areas, the good fishing spots are well-known to early-bird regulars and, therefore, they will have beaten you to them. What can you do about it? Not much, I'm afraid, for certainly you won't be able to do much of that experimental casting without interfering with other fishermen—which is a no-no of the first magnitude.

About the only thing left is to try those unfished spots close by the action and hope for the best. I've done this many times and quite often surprised old-timers with a pretty good catch from areas they thought not worth fishing. Remember, fish are like gold: they are where you find them. Just note those "hotspots" the regulars use and make up your mind that next time you won't be a Johnnie-come-lately. Or better yet, try a bit of boat fishing.

Unquestionably, boat fishermen have the edge over those anglers who prefer to fish from shore—most times. I stress "most times" because shore-bound anglers have been known to beat out boat fishermen on occasion.

The smart fisherman who rents a skiff for a day's fishing in a strange area will always check with the fishing

station owner for the best producing spots. The proprietor is glad to divulge this information, for it is to his interest that patrons have a successful day. Novice fishermen should pay strict attention to any suggestions for they'll learn much.

For the beginning fisherman aboard his own craft, no aid will put fish in the bucket with less strain or pain as will an up-to-date chart of the area he plans to fish. Here—in full detail—water depths and bottom compositions are pinpointed and these can be used to advantage to avoid the often non-producing "catch-as-catch-can" methods many beginners use. Bear in mind when reading a chart that when fishing before mid-April, it is the deeper spots in any given area that are more productive. Later, you can try the shallower areas—but not before!

For the fisherman without a chart, it is best to seek areas containing mud. This may be done by sounding with a sinker-weighted line, or by drifting. Mud can be detected by the soft feel of the sinker as it strikes bottom.

Mud bottoms are always the best producer of flounder. Later in the season, say late April or early May, when the water is definitely warmer, flounder are more active and free-swimming and may then be sought over sun-drenched sand flats with some expectation of success. But even then, mud can still be counted upon to produce action.

Let's assume you are out there in a boat and you know you're anchored over mud. One or two fish are caught immediately and then the fishing comes to a grinding halt. This can mean one of two things: either that's all the fish there were in the vicinity (which is highly unlikely) or you are off the feeding spot by several feet. In other words, close, but no cigar. What can you do about it? Several things.

If the day isn't blustery, you can lift the anchor and drift around the area until the fish are located. But be cautious here. You do not know for certain if you will drift away from the main body of the fish which may actually be feeding close by. The fish, for instance, may lie south of you while you drift north. There's just no way of being sure.

Many experienced skiff fishermen prepare for this possibility by carrying a small marker buoy in their tackle bag. This consists of a six or eight ounce sinker rigged to a length of line sufficient to reach and hold bottom. To the other end is attached a small float of some bright color for easy visibility—usually fluorescent orange. This is dropped astern prior to lifting the anchor and commencing the drift.

Should the drift fail to produce fish in a reasonable time, the fishermen will then return to the marker and using it as a reference point, will begin another drift. This time, though, the drift is begun from the opposite direction and in line with the buoy. Nine out of ten times, this method lands them on the main body of fish from whence their first couple of flounder were caught.

You can also remain at anchor and try jigging, allowing the sinker to send up puffs of mud which are highly attractive to curious flounder. You can use a bottom bouncer fashioned from a sash weight or something similar and do this on a larger scale.

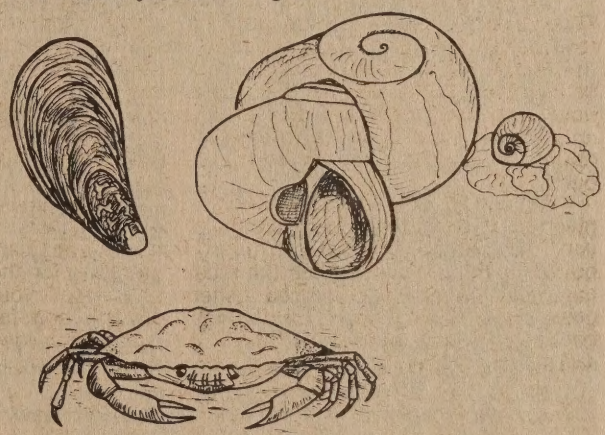
A chum pot bounced occasionally on bottom to get the goo dispersed into the current will sometimes work wonders. Lacking a chum pot, several handfuls of cracked mussel or soft clam tossed near the line (if the current isn't too strong) will do the trick.

It is understood that with all these methods you will be giving the fish a full selection of bait, as discussed in Part Two.

As noted before, when party boat fishing for flounder you have no problem, for the fish will be scattered about the area the skipper has selected. Therefore, choice rail spots aren't important as they would be for certain other types of fishing. Any spot along the rail should produce; so it isn't necessary for you to fish against the competition often found in the stern. From my own experience when party boat fishing, most of my pool-winning flounder have come from the midship area to the bow.

This brings me to the end of the series on spring flounder fishing. These are the basics, but if you faithfully follow them, there is no question you will catch flounder. Eventually, you will develop a finely-honed skill. But I can take you just so far—the rest is up to you. Put to use what you have learned.

I'm sure you won't regret it.



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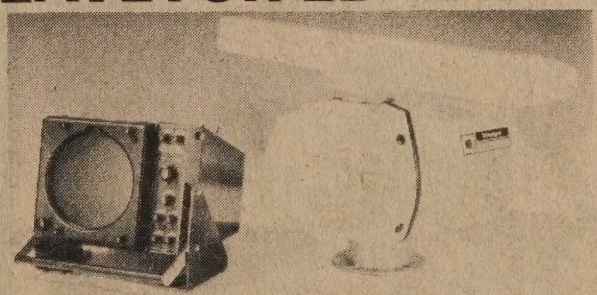

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MUSSEL OPENING

by Dick Mermon

After years of suffering each spring with finger cuts from crushing mussels with a small thumper, or smashing one against a gunwale, I found the easy way to open this mollusk. A simple tool like the clam knife is all that is required for a powerless parting of the shells.

Mussels—which happen to be the finest bait for spring flatties—come in two species: black mussel and green, or ribbed bank mussel. The difference between them is in size, color of the outer shell; location where they develop, and their flavor to man. Black mussels are smaller in dimension than ribbed and have a smooth blue-black outer shell. Ribbed or bank mussels grow to an average of four inches in length, with a rippled-type outer shell. Black mussels muster in colonies, clustered together on bulkheads, pilings, rocks, or attached to water-covered bottom structure. Bank mussels are individuals unto themselves, growing singular in a vertical position on mud flats or marsh banks—thus gaining the name "bank mussel." Both species attach themselves to the object, or mud, by means of hair-like roots.

If shellfish are your taste, then black mussels are a treat, but not the green variety. There is a distinct difference in flavor between them and your taste buds will distinguish that individuality. Black mussels are a gourmet's delight when steamed in tomato sauce or butter and garlic, served over spaghetti or linguine.

In preparation of opening a bank mussel, it should be held in the palm of the hand, with its taper pointing upwards. The small tuft resembling hair should be exposed and scraped away by the clam knife. When this is completed, a small opening between the two halves is disclosed. Into this slot, the knife's blunt end is inserted on a slight angle, following the inside curvature of the shell. As the knife is brought downward along the inner shell, it will cut one of two string muscles holding the mollusk tightly together. Once this muscle is severed, the knife is extracted and the mollusk is turned upside-down. Once again, the knife is put into the same slot, at a slight angle and brought downward. This motion cuts a scallop-shaped muscle at the top, or tapered area inside the shell. It can now be easily separated into two halves. Once open, the meat should be either bright yellow or greenish-yellow in color. The clam knife is slid under the flesh, cutting along the inner shell completely around its body. This action frees the meaty substance which was held there by a full length lip and two other muscles. Now the core is ready for the hook.

No matter which way the inside substance is obtained, many anglers using the mussel as bait do not know the proper method of hooking so the flesh stays put. Some fishermen steam the bait open; others place the blob into salt, and the old method was to wrap the hooked morsel about with yellow sewing thread. The first two systems firm the flesh too much; most often flounders like a soft, mushy enticement over compactness.

In examining the yellow matter closely, one will see that there are three parts to the insides of the mollusk. It has a main body, tongue muscle and, circling the entire flesh, a lip muscle. The hook's point is placed through the tongue muscle, then the entire body is twisted about the shank. After the point is pushed back into the flesh again, it is twisted several more times. Each coil forms a hard area for the hook to be implanted. On the final stage, the hook's point is placed into the outer lip and back in the flesh. Now the bait will hold steadfast even after a cast is made.

One main feature involving the use of bank or green mussels as bait is to prepare them beforehand, or in advance of the fishing day. Open only what is thought to be needed for bait the night before and place the flesh into a large plastic container, cover them tightly and refrigerate. Meat from mussels, saturated in their own secretion will last in usable form for over a week when stored in this fashion.

Now the tiny bat that I employed for splitting mussels can be utilized for chum cracking and mussel smashing in a pail. With this opening technique, I can fish and leave the band aids at home.

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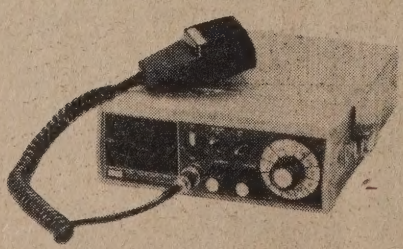

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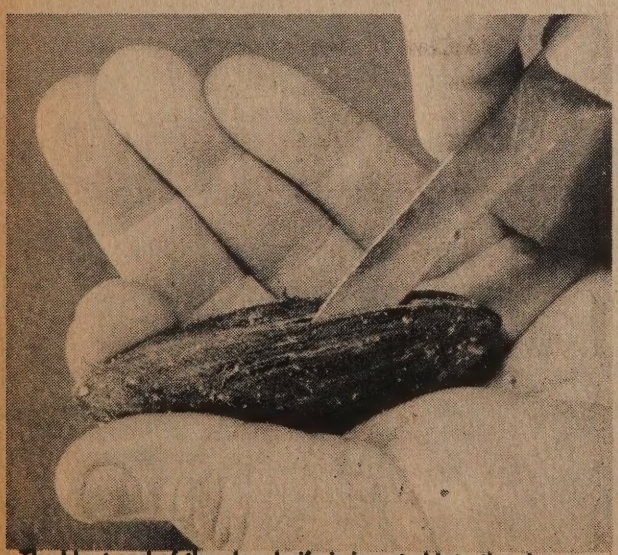
A clam knife is employed to open the bank mussel. Hold the mollusk in the palm of the hand with the hair-like fibers exposed and the taper of the shell pointing upwards.

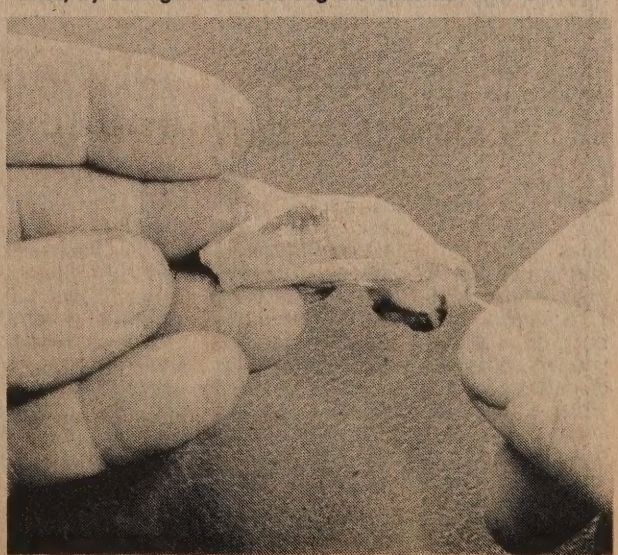
After making the first slice, the mussel is inverted and the knife is applied in the same way and direction, severing the scallop shaped muscle at the top inside of the shell.

After scraping the fibers clean of the shell's edge, it will expose a small slit between the two shell sections.

When both muscles are cut the two shells will unhinge, exposing the massive yellow flesh. This is cut free from the inner shell, by sliding the knife along the underside of the meat.



The blunt end of the clam knife is inserted into the slot at a slight angle and brought downward, cutting the single fiber muscle holding the mollusk shut.



By means of twists and turns, in and out of the existing flesh, it will adhere to the hook until a flounder inhales it or steals off with it.

Beach Buggy Fishermen and the Fire Island National Seashore

by Charlie Hollins and Bill Miller

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was requested by L.I.F., and is being printed in an attempt to bring all of us up-to-date on the status of beach access; the history of recent National Seashore Developments, and a hint about what the future may bring. Both authors are members of the board of LIBBA and FINSAB.

The Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) was established on September 11, 1964. A few years before that time, a bridge connecting Fire Island with the mainland was built at Smith Point Country Park at the island's east end. The bridge to Robert Moses State Park at the west end of F.I. was opened in 1964.

Before the bridges and the coming of the National Park Service (NPS) with the FINS, surf fishermen were roaming the beaches of F.I. in pursuit of stripers, blues, kingfish or whatever. Some came by ferry, but because they were on foot, were confined to a very limited area, and further restricted to a fishing schedule that matched the ferry timetable. Then there were fishermen who had a beach buggy on the Island. Some were brought over by boat or barge, and some were driven over across the Moriches Inlet when the tide was low and the inlet closed. In the latter case, the inlet was non-existent at low tide and generally two or three buggies travelling together would drive across. The company was necessary insurance in case you bogged down halfway across; then with the help of snap lines, boards and jacks, you got out before the next tide trapped you. In those days, the beach buggy fisherman fished the whole beach from Fire Island Inlet to Moriches Inlet. Many Fire Island homeowners and squatters, as well as businessmen, also had buggies and trucks on Fire Island. If you walk around the back dune area of the island today, you will come across the rusting hulks of cars and trucks of model A Ford vintage. They are probably regarded as so much junk by today's Federal caretakers; but to those who remember another era lost forever, they are rich in nostalgia.

In June, 1962, the Temporary State Commission on Protection and Preservation of the Atlantic Shore Front submitted a report which recommended that when the Fire Island Inlet Bridge was completed to the Fire Island State Park (now called Robert Moses State Park) that a project be undertaken to protect F.I. The project would create, with hydraulic fill, a flat-topped dune from the State Park to the Smith Point Park with an elevation of twenty feet above mean sea level. On top of this dune would be placed a highway, which would connect the already existing Smith Point Bridge with the Fire Island Inlet Bridge.

By this time a proposal to establish the FINS was already being advocated. The plan to establish the "Robert Moses" highway accelerated the push for the national seashore. In some quarters, the urgency reached hysterical proportions. It was feared that the road would probably destroy major natural features of the Island, as well as opening access which would lead to development of the remaining undeveloped areas, especially the area just west of Smith Point Park. Each of the varied interests, for their own reasons, supported the proposed FINS. The Long Island Beach Buggy Association (LIBBA) saw the national seashore as the way to save the remaining areas. It joined in supporting seashore proposal.

The LIBBA's representative apeared at the Congressional hearing held in Islip on September 30, 1963 to add its support to the bill to establish the national seashore, because as a circular distributed by the Citizens Committee for a Fire Island National Seashore warned, "Our open spaces are vanishing and our coastline is becoming one big city... Your heritage and your recreational life are at stake." The public acquisition would forever preserve the public use and access to this section of Long Island's rapidly disappearing available surf—so it was thought!

Brookhaven's Supervisor Charles Dominy, a strong advocate of the national seashore spoke at this hearing and said it should be maintained for our children and our children's children as a major national recreation center. He mentioned ferry, private boat, airplanes and beach buggies as the means of access for visitors to the areas of the proposed FINS. This park was to be created in the model of the Cape Cod National Seashore which had and continues to have, beach buggy access for the mobile sport fisherman.

Probably the most comprehensive statement was made by the Suffolk County Council of the League of Women Voters. It was strong in environmental concern for protection of the natural environment. Many of the League's recommendations were incorporated into the enabling legislation that established the National Seashore. In testimony accompanying their recommendations, Mrs. Donald H. Larson of the League declared: "...sand vehicles, if their use is properly and carefully controlled, constitute a means of access most valuable to sportsmen who will probably avail themselves of the beach more than any other single user group." Her recommendation was that the beach vehicle access was acceptable and should be considered for this (sportsman's) use when properly controlled. In this setting the FINS was born, created by act of Congress on September 11, 1964.

Sometime thereafter, the first Park Rangers appeared. One of the first things Smokey did was to stop beach buggy access (just as they did at Breezy Point at Gateway). Efforts to re-establish it were fruitless. This state of affairs continued until mid-1967. Fortunately, the act establishing the FINS also established a Fire Island National Seashore Advisory Commission. Its purpose was to advise the NPS on matters concerning the FINS. One of the members of this commission was Charles Dominy, at this time the Commissioner of Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

In July, 1967, the NPS finally decided to issue regulations for vehicle use on the FINS, including vehicles for sports fishing and hunting. it allowed a paltry fifteen days for public comment on these proposed rules and it seems it didn't even bother to provide advance information to the advisory commission on this release, or of its contents. What the release suggested was no travel would be allowed in the areas west of Smith Point Park. It suggested that sportsmen with an NPS permit could travel at all times between Smith Point Park (include the bathing beach) and Moriches Inlet. (This was Suffolk County land, for which the NPS had no jurisdiction.) It is not an exaggeration to say that Charles Dominy raised enough hell to turn

this situation around. He told both the Director of the NPS and the Secretary of the Interior that when he was the Brookhaven Supervisor and was actively working to create the Seashore, it was understood that sportsmen would be allowed—under regulated conditions—to use the beach for beach buggy travel. That under the proposed vehicle plan, it was obvious there was no intention of letting surf fishermen operate west of Smith Point Park; that this understanding included meetings in the office of the Secretary of the Interior and in other meetings with park personnel, at which the understanding included statements to this effect by himself with these government officials. He reminded the Director and the Secretary that the Cape Cod concept was declared to apply at the FINS; that the action to bypass the Advisory Commission reflected unfavorably on the integrity of the government, as well as causing public doubt about his own integrity and that this action was a betrayal of the various sport fishermen groups and beach buggy associations that supported and worked for this national seashore. After that, the beach buggy access from Smith Point Park west to Long Cove (about 6½ miles) was established between September 15 and May 14, thanks in very large measure to Charles Dominy.

In 1972, President Nixon issued Executive Order 11644 which required institution of controls on Off-Road Vehicles (a beach buggy is an ORV). This order had no effect on the beach buggy use on the FINS since the controls it required were already applied with extra measure, when access was restored in 1967.

This situation lasted until 1975, when the NPS came out with its new Master Plan. At first glance, the Plan was quite impressive. In size, it was 1½ inches thick. We fully expected it would provide concrete proof that our use was in fact environmentally destructive, and we were prepared to accept severe limitations on our use. The Plan proposed to remove two miles of beach (from Long Cove to Whalehouse Point), impose a ridiculous limit on the number of vehicles allowed on the beach, and eventually phase out vehicles by 1992—if not sooner. Ostensibly to justify this action, studies at Padre Island and Cape Cod, as well as on Fire Island were to study all aspects of vehicle use, although the phase-out decision was already announced. The plan and its Environmental Impact Statement failed miserably to demonstrate the need for many of the restrictions then in effect, much less the need for the additional restrictions planned. In this case, the old saw about familiarity breeding contempt was especially true. The NPS had long ago decided to eliminate the beach buggy use, and it was going to try it again. The decision was made and announced in the Plan, and almost as an afterthought, studies were to be made, which supposedly would prove the need. Something like the predicament of the fellow grabbed as a horse thief in the old wild West. As someone in the posse said, "we're gonna give him a fair trial and after we find him guilty, we're gonna hang him!" The LIBBA and the Great South Beach Mobile Sportfishermen (GSBMS), as well as fishing clubs fought this plan. Then in 1976, another plan was issued by the NPS. There was no longer any mention of the studies at Padre Island or Cape Cod. There was still the plan to conduct vehicle studies on F.I., and to apply an unreasonable limit on the number of vehicles allowed on the beach. It appeared, perhaps, that some progress was being made. Again the LIBBA and GSBMS opposed the unreasonable parts of the plan, including a petition drive to President Ford.

In July, 1977, the FINS Superintendent announced planned revisions to the vehicle rules. The expressed intent of these rules was to reduce vehicle use. While there were positive aspects to the changes, there were further serious restrictions, including a limit on the number of vehicle permits, as well as an unspecified limit on the numbers of vehicles allowed on the beach at one time. Vehicles were to be confined to the area below mean high water and weekend access during the fall bass run was eliminated. To further reduce vehicle traffic, only one round trip per day was permitted. The new rules did not specify that the limit of travel was to be from Smith Point Park to Long Cove. In the future, this limit would be stated on the permits, which means that the Superintendent could change it at will. This time the NPS quoted a study that it claimed to show that vehicles cause erosion. It turned out to be done by a student working for his Master's degree in Arts, and guess what—the NPS assisted him in doing the study. Although the laymen could find defects in it, what counted was what competent professionals had to say about. To put it kindly, it was dismissed as not proving what it alleged. In spite of this rejection of the NPS' long-sought "evidence" that vehicles cause erosion, the vehicle changes listed above were adopted on Dember 13, 1977.

Shortly after the plan for the new vehicle rules were announced in July, 1977, a group of Fire Island residents and businessmen met with beach buggy and sportsmen club representatives. These people, especially the year-round F.I. residents, were being harassed even more than the fishermen. In the meantime, they had to further contend with what is considered a very repressive beach vehicle policy adopted by the Town of Islip under the leadership of its Supervisor, Peter Cohalan. As a result of these meetings, a coalition was formed in order to unite in opposition to the NPS anti-vehicle prejudice. This coalition has called itself the Fire Island National Seashore Advisory Board (FINSAB). Its goal is to resurrect the old advisory commission so as to require the NPS to hear the wishes of those concerned with the future of the FINS, as well as the voice of the local recreational community. FINSAB has had some successes and some failures. The failures include the inability to enlist the aid of our east end Congressman, and so far has not been successful in gaining the ear of the Congressman from the 2nd C.D. It went to Washington in August, 1977 with the President of the United Mobile Sportfishermen and Suffolk County Parks Commissioner, John Chester to meet with National Park Service officials. Like Charles Dominy, Commissioner Chester has provided the support the beach buggy fishermen need. He is a most valued friend. If the Superintendent of the FINS were willing to admit that there is much he had to learn, there is much that could learn from Commissioner Chester. As should have been expected, the reply to that meeting was written in large part by the Superintendent of the FINS. The NPS and the U.S. Department of the Interior were "stonewalling" it. On January 28, 1978, a FINSAB protest motorcade of beach buggies went to Washington to deliver 13,000 petitions collected. The motorcade was supported by buggies from Maine to the Carolinas; 475 of them drove past the White House in what was a very orderly demonstration of protest to President Carter. The result of the White House appeal are still pending.

In November, 1977, the FINS issued its General Management Plan and Final Environmental Statement. It states that vehicle traffic will be reduced to an absolute minimum. In a meeting with the Superintendent of the FINS, as well as in written reply by an Assistant Director of the NPS, the FINSAB was advised that they expect that beach buggy travel would be terminated by 1992. The General Management Plan also declares that the area open to beach buggy fishermen is being studied for possible wilderness designation. This study will be completed by 1980 and if it is successful, will put buggies off this beach, since the Wilderness Act prohibits any motorized vehicles or equipment in these areas. The plan lists the usual litany of complaints about beach buggies. It fails, as usual, to produce any citations to prove the allegations, and is just as deficient in exploring ways to rectify the complaints if they are really believed to be true. This latter point is required by the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as being an action that would be expected of any park manager worthy of his salt. This plan still speaks of vehicle studies on F.I., but is mute concerning the Padre Island and Cape Cod studies mentioned in the earlier plan. The FINSAB was successful in obtaining the results of some of the studies that

(Continued on page 35.)

FLOUNDERS:
The Sharpies Digest

by Capt. John DeMaio

All too often, fishermen fall victim to habits and methods in fishing that are more harmful than helpful. The beginner in particular, will suffer mostly from this practice. Yet some experienced anglers will do their thing the same way as they started back in 1938.

My particular concern is with the long shank hook. This hook is most popular in fluke and flounder fishing. I find it an unnecessary hook and often harmful. I never use one. In the case of the flounder, it is most definitely useless.

The most commonly used flounder hook is a Chestertown, in varying sizes, of course. It is a wire hook and has a shape that suits the fish it is made to hook. At times, I have even used "flounder hooks" for other species. My complaint is that the shank is too long. For a flounder, it's a waste. At least for fluke, you can excuse the use of the long shank as a means of keeping away from the fish's teeth. I really don't buy this reason either, but I will accept it for what it is—an excuse. If that form of reasoning prevailed, a shark hook would have a two-foot shank. A flounder has no teeth; the mouth suggests the fish may have been nursed at birth.

The fault of the long shank is the ability of the fish to feel the hook when taking the bait. No matter how well you place the bait upon the hook, even worms, it will slide down the shank leaving the hook exposed. Mussels and clams in particular.

Now, if you have "hot" flounder fishing going for you, it really doesn't matter what the hook is—the fish will bite on anything. It is those times when the fish are picky when the "cute" hooks will do their stuff.

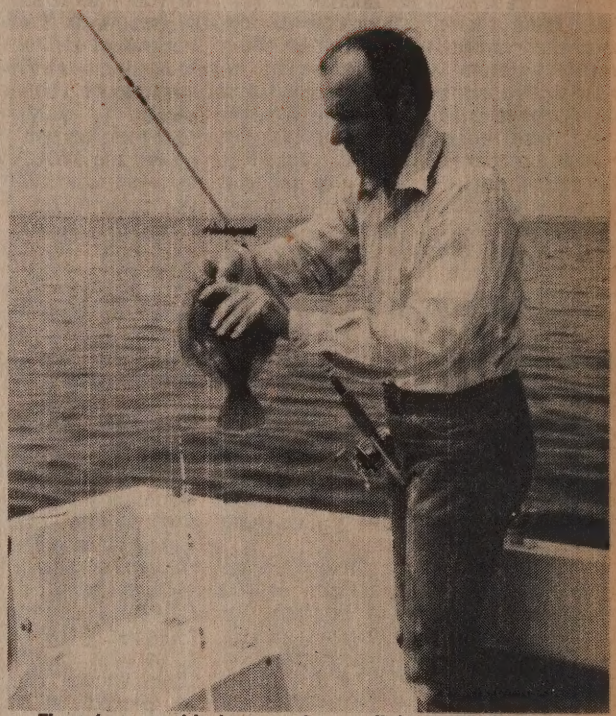
In the early spring of last year I stepped out on an old dock in Montauk in hopes of catching a few flounders for dinner. Between the several fishermen who had already been there for sometime, a total of four flounders was all they could account for. I slipped two cute rigs over the side and took three flounders in a half-hour, while the others watched. That was enough for a meal, so I packed up and left. All the other fishermen were using the traditional long shank flounder hook.

Even during those leap job periods, I would use something besides the Chestertown hook. Many years back at Montauk, I would use the old tarred blackfish hooks for speed. Instead of gingerly removing the hook, I would tear it out and not bend the strong little blackfish hook.

The absolute best flounder hook I have ever seen, and used, was a wrapped short shank Chestertown. A **wrapped hook**, to the fishermen of the past twenty-five years, is a strange animal. Wrapped hooks began to disappear from the shelves of tackle stores after World War II. Your now common **snelled hook** is easier to make and more durable. In the making of a wrapped hook, the hook and leader was joined at the shank of the hook by wrapping a light line around them, such as rod winding nylon. A coating of varnish or such, helped seal it.

The wrapped hook eliminates that knotted lump of nylon leader that goes with the snelled hook. This allows you to slide the bait up the hook easily. When using worms for bait, it was particularly helpful.

I haven't seen a wrapped hook now since those flounder hooks I mentioned. They came by way of an ex-tackle salesman who had several gross made for himself and held onto them for many years. The only wrapped hooks possible today may be found in freshwater tackle supplies. At the time of this writing, I was unable to confirm it.



Flounders provide keen action on light tackle but rods, reels, and terminal tackle should be matched to the conditions under which we fish.

What I do for a cute hook is to buy one of those small tins of mixed size loose hooks and pick out the size I want. They are thin wire hooks with small eyes; Pfluger is the manufacturers name. The hooks I select are then tied with ten pound test line. For areas where the fishing is slow or plain picky, these tiny **cute** hooks will be a big help in catching those extra few. Don't worry about bending the hook when trying to get it out of the flounder's mouth. It can be bent back to its desired shape with little effort.

Never use a spreader! The only one who benefits from the use of a spreader is the guy who sold it to you. Use a rig similar to that in the diagram. My preference is for longer leaders, especially when the fishing is slow. Always have your hook, or hooks, tied close to the sinker. No more than two or three inches apart. Your bait should always be on the bottom.

Now about worm bait. Fresh bloodworms are not as effective as those that have begun to lose their springy quality. When you cut a piece of fresh worm, it will shrink to a size much smaller. In the weakened bait, the shrink is gone. If you are stuck with a dozen fresh worms, this little tip will help make the bait more palatable to a flounder. Cut off that bulb head end where the pincers are; then run your fingers down the worm against a flat surface forcing the blood out of it. This will kill the worm and make a softer bait. Easier for a flounder to suck in. As a matter of rule, always cut off the bulb head anyway.

Always cut your bait big enough to cover the hook. Too many anglers make the mistake of cutting the bait smaller to match the fish or to conserve bait. Not only cut the length to cover the hook, but to leave a good portion hanging. This will enable the flounder to take the bait from

the desired end and find the working end of the hook. Carefully conceal as much hook as possible and leave only the point, a small portion and not the barb, showing.

Finally, a little tip on making what I believe to be the best chumming device you can make. There are two basic methods to chumming flounders. One is to present the fish with chopped, crushed or whatever, shellfish, such as mussels, clams and scallop guts. Corn and rice are also employed in luring flounders. This "chum" is either thrown over the side loosely or placed in containers such as a chum pot or bag type holder.

The second method is to stir the bottom up by several means. Dragging your anchor in the area you intend to fish. Using a long pole or clam tongs that can reach the bottom; or dropping down a variety of objects on a line from old flatirons to chains. I have even seen plungers placed on long poles and worked up and down. The plunger idea is similar to my preferred method.

Please keep in mind that stirring the bottom chumming trick is strictly for the shallow bay type areas. In most cases, the use of two anchors is necessary to achieve the best results when stirring the bottom. Stir chumming is ideal, for you do not feed the fish—you attract them. Of course, a certain amount of minute food will come up from the bottom, but this will not be enough to fill their tummies. A couple of cracked mussels could well take the edge off their appetites.

In shallow clear water I have had the opportunity to observe flounders going for the bait. Their first movement is not for the bait, but towards the little puffs of sand that my sinker makes when I jig it up and down. Hence the reason for jigging the sinker: not to move the bait, but the sinker. Occasionally a sinker heavier than needed will draw flounder when jigged because it will create a larger puff of sand.

When you place a weight on the end of the line and drop it to the bottom and work it up and down, you are "pounding" the bottom; so for the lack of another word, we shall call my device a Pounder. Having learned of it a great many years ago at Smitty's Fishing Station, Broad Channel, I shall call it the Jamaica Bay Pounder.

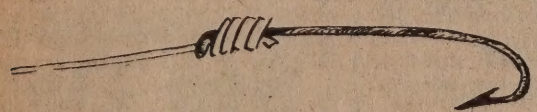
Take one standard size tuna fish can. Remove top of can along with contents. Bang in the bottom of the can with ball peen hammer making a concave shape. For a tying hook, I recommend a strong, thick one, something like the hook on a lock or a big eye hook. Now melt about five pounds of lead (the can should hold just over four pounds of lead). Hold your hook with a plier in the middle

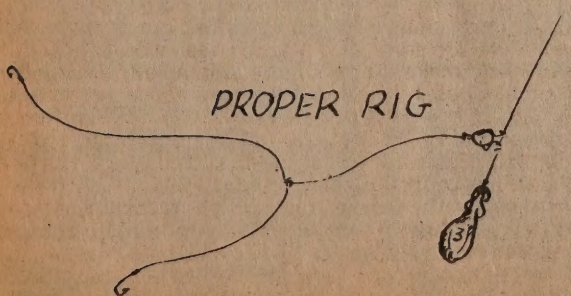
Good-sized fish are not uncommon when the run of fish is good and techniques are properly applied.

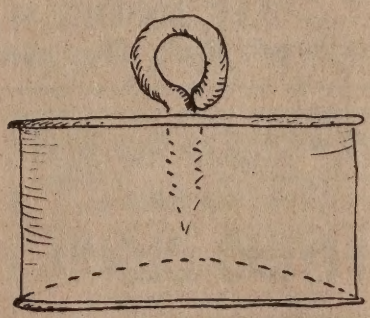
of the can and pour in the hot lead. Use with a quarter-inch line which doesn't chafe too easily and change the knot at every use.

To use properly you should anchor your boat at both ends to eliminate any swinging. Cross tide is best. In fact, using the Pounder in a tide is best. Drop the Pounder to the bottom and lift up and down. The weight and suction effect will actually dig a hole. After several up and downs, let it lie. When you attempt to lift again, you realize just how much of a hole you have dug because it will take two hands to pull it off the bottom. Obviously the flowing tide has filled in the hole you created when pounding. So even when you're not pounding, it is still working. For when you pull it free, a large volume of sand and bottom will billow down-tide. Now you can see why I advise a strong eye and heavy line. One drawback is the Pounder's ability to suck along other creatures such as crabs.

Well, that's it, flounder fans. I hope these few ideas may provide a little added interest to your sport this season. Good Luck.







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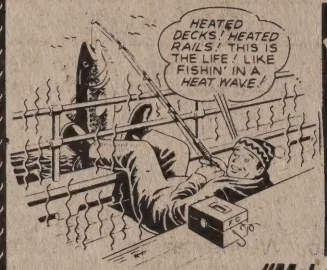

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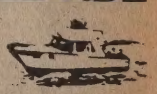

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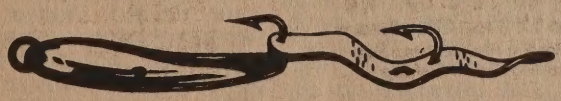

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** was ecstatic when asked about the quality of the codfishing off Block Island. "This is undoubtedly the best codfishing I have seen in 15 years for this time of year. Not only that, but the fishermen have gotten the word and are coming out in force and on Wednesday and Thursday, I had to run three boats." Three boats also sailed on Friday and many anglers numbered their catch in the twenties. As long as the weather has been calm and providing for good drifting, the fishing has been great. Most of the cod are in the 8 to 10 pound class and are being taken on both diamond jig and tube rigs and bait, with the bait holding a slight edge. No pollock to speak of. The hot area is Sharks Ledge in 80 to 110 feet of water south of Block Island. Paul said that it is a big body of fish and finding them has been no problem. Paul said that he had capacity crowds all week, so he will be running both the **Viking Starship** and the **Viking Star** on Saturday and Sunday, with the **Viking Starlight** standing by for the overflow.

A visit to the **Viking** dock on Easter Sunday saw the **Triton II** pulling in with anglers getting off with nice bags of cod fillets and a couple of tubs of fillets in the cockpit. The Triton II is the only charter boat in the water at present except for Capt. Artie Gerstmann's **Bumble Bee III** which is also in the water and available for charter.

Capt. John Sweetman of the charter boat **Ebb Tide** confirmed the great codfishing at Sharks Ledge and said that he expects to be in the water shortly to get in on the action. See the ad on page 22 for the phone number.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that the rough winter has delayed his getting the boat in the water, but he is hoping to be in this weekend. Give Buddy a call at 668-2720 to confirm.

SHINNECOCK

The Capt. Clark I under the guidance of Clark Bellows, Jr., had good flounder fishing Friday and Saturday off Jamesport, fished generally from 1 to 2 plus lbs., with mussels working best. Some fares had from 12 to 15 flounder each, both tides working well. Clark informed us of the good news that his wife, Leslie, presented him on March 4 with a 7 lb. 2 oz. daughter who they have named Jessica. The staff of L.I.F. extends best wishes to the whole Bellows family.

HAMPTON BAYS

Tony's Fishing Station tells us that Al Masciotti, Pete Moriarty, Geo. Theophall and Joanie Schnelli of Yonkers totalled 119 flounder up to 2 lbs. 2 oz., along with 91 tommycod. This was at buoy 7A at Quogue Canal on bloodworms, red clams and mussel chum. Boats are averaging 75 to 100 flounder per boat. The tommycod are running from 3/4 to 1 lb. , and both are biting steady through both tides. This was on Saturday. On Thursday, the Schweizer family of Bohemia pulled into their skiff 89 flounders and 20 lbs. of tommycod, which is fabulous eating.

MORICHES BAY

Larry of **L&M Marine** dropped in to tell us that flounder fishing is absolutely phenomenal, virtually every boat returning to the dock with over 100 fish. Boats are catching all they want with many double and even an occasional triple-header. Bloodworms and sand worms with mussel chum are producing best at buoy 54 by the Westhampton Bridge.

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** says the best action now is at the Westhampton Bridge. Angler Joe Chiofalo of Center Moriches had a healthy catch of flatties on Friday fishing there with bloodworms and red clams up to 2-1/4 lbs. on the top of the flood. On Friday, Bill, Joe O'Brien, John Gibbs and Stan Saneski fished the same area with bloodworms, mussels and clam belly chum at the top of the high for a score of over 200 flatties with only 38 keepers, however. The biggest ran 1 lb. 15 oz. Saturday saw Leigh Schroeder of Remsenberg, N.Y., boat 31 keeper size flounder up to 1 lb. 8 oz., fishing bloods and mussel chum at the high. 69 other fish were returned to the water. This was all between the 1 and 2nd Westhampton Bridges. Also on Friday, Jim Green of North Patchogue had 54 keepers in the same area on bloodworms, mussels and a lot of chumming.

Seatuck Cove Fishing Station called to say that they're open for business and that the flounders are hungry in Moriches Bay just east of the Westhampton Bridge, in good numbers. Though there are a lot of midgets, there are also plenty of eating size fish up to 2 lbs. Sand worms or bloodworms are doing the trick and chumming with mussels is ideal. Bank mussels have been hard to get and people are using black mussels. Two anglers came back with 41 keeper fish from this area, on Thursday. Outgoing is working best.

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SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports some fish are being taken from the Heckscher flats, but that the skiffs have been returning early due to the rough waters. However, flounders are being taken at buoy 28 on worm and clam baits and they are good sized. Ask Jim to point out the hotspots.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports that the Heckscher Flats are producing mixed sizes of flounders up to 2 lbs., on mussel and worms with chumming most necessary on any moving water.

Capt. Walter Specht of the **Casey Lee** reports the maiden voyage of Thursday, March 23 was very good for quantity and fantastic for quality. Fifteen men had over 200 big flounders, more than half of which were over 1½ lbs. Mike Fedrow of Port Jeff took the pool with a 2 lb. 2 oz. flounder and 21 other fish. Friday's and Saturday's fishing was only fair, but high hook remained an even dozen each day. Worm, mussel and clam baits worked equally well. Best was off Heckscher 15 minutes from the dock. Walter says this is the best March fishing anyone can remember and it can only get better. This could be one of the greatest flounder seasons ever.

CAPTREE

Capt. Marty said that both the **Jib V** and **Jib VI** have been doing good with flounder in the Heckscher Flats. It's been a steady pick all day and the hotspots have been southwest of buoy 4 and in the east channel between buoy 17 and 22. On Saturday, Scott Reichert of East Northport took the pool with a 2-3/4 lb. flounder weighed in at the bait station. High hook was Frank DiLernia of Brentwood with 24 fish, and Rich Meyer of East Northport at 18. Capt. Bill on the **JIB v** had a pool fish of 3 lbs. 2 oz. on Saturday, caught by Larry Muller of Farmingdale.

The Capt. Rod also reported very good flounder fishing in the Heckscher Flats. Although it cannot be considered quite a slaughter, the fish are big and it's a steady pick all day. The Capt. noted that earlier in the week the water temperature was only 32 degrees and the fish have been a little sluggish hitting the bait. Those scoring best are those fishing a dead stick and occasionally making a slow lift of the rod.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scottie** said that the flounder fishing has been fantastic on both tides. Fishing the Heckscher Flats on Saturday, the boat had one blitz where 120 flounder were taken in 20 minutes. Fishing is much better than last year and it really looks promising for a great flounder season.

The Capt. Eddie B called to say that his charter on Saturday picked away at a good clip on the flatties all day and each man averaged 12 to 15 fish on the Heckscher flats. Eddie says worms and clam on the hook along with a heavily stirred up bottom did the trick.

Capt. Neil of the **Lady Ann** reports that this first flounder charter of the year was on Saturday for a group from the Queens Supreme Court and they bagged nearly 150 of what Neil calls the biggest flounders seen in Great South Bay, with half of them running over 1½ lbs. This was on clams, worms and mussels. Action continued all day long with the Heckscher Flats and Sailor's Haven areas working best.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** reports that he sailed most days this past week and except for one day, had very good flounder fishing. The average was 10 to 20 flounder per man, of nice size, hardly any small fish. The biggest ran to 1-3/4 lbs., and these fish should be 2-2½ lbs. in a month or so. The Heckscher Flats and the north end of Range Channel and also east channel's buoys 17 through 22 are the producing areas, says Gordon. Clam and worm baits are both working very well. There is also a showing of fish off the Bay Shore flats, on any moving tide. Gordon says that this is the best spring flounder fishing in many

seasons, and that he is optimistic towards a truly great spring flounder season, as size and quantity are about a month earlier right now.

"Great flounder fishing," reports the **Capt. Ben Litwin**, as evidenced by a catch of 50 flounders for Bill Sofnicki of Shirley, fishing the Heckscher Flats. Most days have been very good, with a lot of fish being caught on worms and clam. Most fish are well over keeper size and only a few midgets are being taken.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle says flounder catches are very good for those that have gone out after them this week. Party boats and private boats are averaging 15 to 20 fish per man with the Heckscher Flats and the areas off Good Sam and the State Channel producing fish. The tongers are getting fish, too, in the clouds puffed up by their clam tongs. Dyed clams and bloodworms along with mussels are working with both sides of the high working best. Ski says fish are spread all over the place. One customer fishing from a car-topper off the hospital had 37 keepers . It's very important that you chum heavily or stir up the bottom heavily.

Charlie's Fishing Station tells us that on Saturday, the Tighe family in one skiff took a good catch of keeper flounders fishing off the pool at the east-west channel on bloodworms. These were good eating size, says Margaret and that catches should increase greatly once the weather warms and settles down.

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** tells us that the flounders are most definitely around, with an average of 10 flatties per skiff with knowledgeable fishermen doing considerably better. A good spot is south of Good Sam hospital and at the eight foot hole at the east-west channel. The clammers are doing an excellent job with flounders as they leave a line over the stern while they're stirring up the mud with their clam tongs. Joe Skeffer and three passengers on his boat Trio, had 60 flounders fishing Heckscher. Fish are all good sized, running up to 2½ lbs. Best baits are bloodworm and clam.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle tells us that the flounders are providing good action during the week for whoever goes out after them. A good example is Rick Albion and Tom Novack who took 30 lbs. of flounder on Thursday fishing the Wantagh Bridge on bloodworms and mussel chum. Fish are also being taken from the beaches from 1 to 1½ lbs, particularly John Burns Park beach, and Seamans Neck Road Park. Four Corners and the Amityville Cut are also producing fish, along with the Copiague beach. Chum for best results.

SEAFORD

Ed at **Shore Isle Marine** tells us that Frank Leonhardt, fishing alone had 40 flounders of which 20 were keeper size, working just east of the first Wantagh with worms and mussel chum. Any moving water. These fish were taken in just two hours on the ebb. Also, Ann Russo of the Merrick Rod & Gun Club weighed in three flounders weighing 1 lb. 10, 1 lb. 10 and 1 lb. 14. These fish were taken from Massapequa Cove. This was on bloodworm and mussel chum. Ed says all boats are bringing back fish and there's lots of activity. The above-mentioned catches were all on Friday.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle tells of really good flounder catches right up until the weekend, when things got blown out. However, Monday through Friday saw all anglers going out and making the effort getting their share of the flounder pie. Even the piers and Seaman's Neck Road park were producing. Best was for boatmen off Florence Beach, Massapequa Cove and Four Corners. Heavy chumming with clam bellies is a must and worms on the hook. Fish are running from 1/2 to 1¼.

BELLMORE

Merrick Marine Supplies reports flounders are being caught best in Baldwin Bay and also Reynolds Channel on any moving tide with worms and mussel bait working best, heavy on the chum. Roy asked us to announce that he is now carrying the Orvis line. He has just become an Orvis franchised dealer and he will be carrying their full line of freshwater tackle, rods, reels, line and accessories. Roy says there are only 125 Orvis dealers nationwide and the closest to him is in Upstate Ossining, New York.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station tells us that Friday's flounder fishing was exceptionally good flounder fishing with between 30 to 50 keeper flounders per skiff. Best areas were Broad Creek and the beginning of Ned's Creek. Worms, clam and mussel all worked, with mussels best. If you chum, you are practically assured of fish.

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Hook, Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle tells us that last Monday flounders were plentiful in Middle Bay as evidence by catches of 45 keepers in 45 minutes by Mike Coons and pal, Gary. These fish ran from 1½ to 2 lbs., and were taken on bloodworms on both running tides. Many other catches of flounder are being mentioned by customers all week long on bloods, mussels and clam chum. The store is putting in a saltwater tank which Bob says will eventually contain all the local species.

The Ivory Queen called to say that on Thursday, their charter had 30 good sized flounder taken from Reynolds Channel and from Baldwin Bay, with one fish 16 inches. This was the Fresh Pond Fishing Club headed up by Charlie Feighery. Worm and mussel baits on the hook and plenty of mussel chum did it. Best tidal stage was the last half of the ebb and the first half of the flood.

The **Starstream II** reports continued good whiting fishing when they were able to get out due to the weather. Note that the boat's sailing time is now 6:30 a.m. daily. Capt. Richie asks that you call to find out what they will be sailing for.

Capt. Joe Long fishing in his Hunky Dory, along with two pals found flounder fishing Bedell Creek and Garret Lead on mussels and clam chum.

The **Aloma II** on Friday with 24 passengers fished Reynolds Channel and Sea Dog Creek averaging 8 to 10 flounder per man, fish from 3/4 to 2 lbs. on worm and mussel with best results on the ebb. Saturday was a little slower, though all fish were nice sized, averaged 5 to 10 flounder per person and all on mussel.

Tournament Anglers Steve W. Weitzen called to tell us that he and Joe Masone again on Joe's Deborah fished Friday and took five cod from 25 to 30 lbs., fishing 145 degrees, 115 feet of water out of Jones. Saturday saw them in 100 feet of water, 135 degrees out of Jones, anchored up and chumming for another three codfish. The Blue Max on Saturday had two more cod, same area.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports 3/4 to 1 lb. flounder hitting mussels and worms at the Flats in Middle Bay, North Channel and Cinder Creek.

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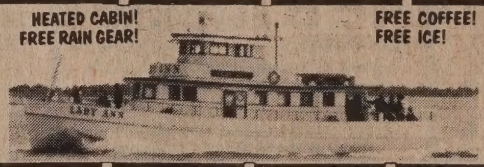

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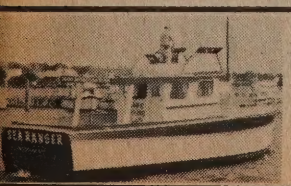

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ISLAND PARK

Capt. Bill of the **Ginny Mae** reports a good day of fishing on Saturday, working the inlet and the bay. The flounders were big, said Capt. Bill and high hook was 28 fish up to 1-1/3 lbs., on any running tide on worms, clam and mussel. He says every weekend things get better as to quantity.

Capt. Clem on the **Commodore** tells us that Friday saw 25 men take over 300 flounders. Steve D'Esposito and brother Gene, of Island Park had 36 flounder. Fish are running from 3/4 lbs. to 1½ lbs., with a lot of 2 lbs. and over. Saturday saw Frank Bonsignore take 24 flounders and Sid Lee of Cedarhurst decked 21 of these fish. Over 250 flounder were taken on Saturday. Best spots are Reynolds Channel, buoys 20-16, 9, Duck Point. Clem says very good off the piers too, with the Island Park pier producing 32 fish for one man on Tuesday.

Beckmann's Tackle reports that Wednesday and Thursday Bob Dantonio and Steve Moran of Lynbrook fished Hogs Channel with bloodworms and mussel chum and loaded up with flatties. On Wednesday, they totalled 90 flounder from 3/4 to 1½ lbs., and 60 flounder on Thursday of about the same size. On Saturday, Jack Klein of Valley Stream fished north Woodmere Park and came up with 22 flounder to 1½ lbs., taken on bloodworms. Bill Beckmann says chumming is a must.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing in Woodmere Channel. On Saturday, a boat came in with 15 fat 2 lb. flounder taken on mussel bait and chum. Duck Point in Woodmere Channel is also producing flounder on mussel and worms, but these fish are only running from 1 to 1½ lbs.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The Eagle reports Saturday's whiting action was good fishing between the Greek Wreck and the oil wreck. High hook was around 50 fish and they are of mixed sizes and the action is holding up very well.

The **Atomic II** continues to work the whiting schools in the same general

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areas with good/very good catches.

The **Dorothy B** tells us that they were catching flounders all week long. On Thursday, high hook was 29 fish, Friday high hook was 24 fish and in general all fares had substantial catches. Things fell off on Saturday and Sunday was blown out. Best action was on both running tides at Silver Hole, with mussels and sand worm baits.

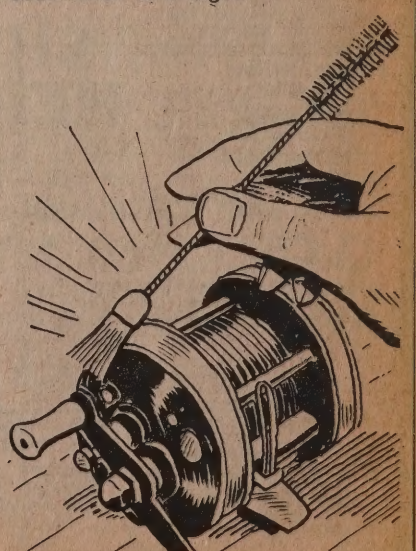
Capt Joe. on the **Blue Sea III** reports a few blackfish each day along with a few cod, but it's mainly whiting that they're doing, with 10 to 50 fish per man of mixed sizes. They are mainly fishing the area of the Greek wreck.

Capt. Tommy of the **Pilot II** reports that his flounder fishing in Jersey's Navasink River is just about the best flounder fishing he has ever had, with 10 to 40 keepers per man and most of these from 1/2 to 2 lbs. On Saturday, two men completely filled a 5 gallon bucket to the top with fish. Tom says it has been "an unreal year so far for flounders." Mussels and worms are the ticket with mussels working best. Tom says that the Navasink area has an atmosphere of trees, mountains, sand dunes, wharves and fishing villages, something a little different.

Mark's Fishing Tackle in Manhattan tells us that Skip Upenicks and daughter Pauline of Brooklyn fished Silver Hole to the tune of 75 keeper flounder between 1/2 and 1-3/4 lbs. on sand worms and mussels. Heavy chumming was very, very important. On his boat, Skip used a chum pot, a plunger and also a sash weight. He obviously likes to cover all bets.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports lots of nice sized flounder coming into the store. One party took 135 flounder averaging 1 lb. east of Silver Hole. Clams, worms and mussels were used for bait. Bridge fishermen can find nice size flounder at both north and south channel bridges.



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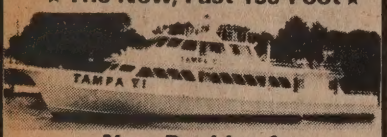

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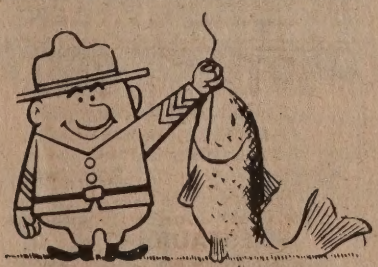

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Capt. Art of the **Wilheric** called to say that he will be starting on April 1 at 8 AM for Gardiner's Bay flounders and that the boat is all set for another big season.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that on Saturday one boat took 41 flounder from inside the harbor. These fish averaged 3/4 lbs. and were taken on mussel bait and chum.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reports that flounder from 3/4 to 1¼ lbs. are being taken at buoy 9 in the mouth of the river on sand worms.

KINGS PARK

Mae's Way Fishing Station called to ask us to advise you that they are now carrying night crawlers, as the opening day of trout season has arrived.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** called to say that he is looking forward to really big flounders starting this Saturday and Sunday. Everyone welcome. See the Ever Ready ad for details.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports flounder being taken on Saturday in both Cold Spring Harbor and Northport Harbor at the docks. These fish are grabbing up worm and clam bait. Bass can still be taken at the Lilco outflow by casting sand worms.

BAYVILLE

Norm's Bait and Tackle reports flounder in the Oyster Bay Harbor and inside the Bayville Bridge, averaging 3/4 to 1 lb. Worms and mussel chum are the ticket. The fish are not in the Sound as yet. Fish are being taken in all moving water and with some good weather, action should be excellent.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reports flounder averaging 1/2 lb. can be taken at Orchard Beach and the lagoon. These fish are taking both sand worm and bloodworms, with sand worms doing the better job.

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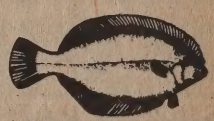

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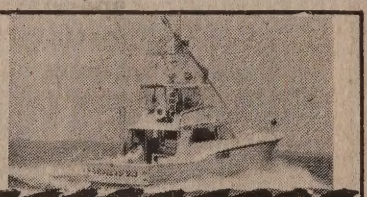

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FIRE ISLAND BEACH BUGGIES

(Continued from page 19.)

were performed at Cape Cod for the NPS by the University of Massachusetts. They do not support the claims made against vehicles, which is why they are now ignored. Other pertinent studies are equally ignored because they do not support the intended plan, and some, in fact, show there are even beneficial aspects to the vehicle use. In the meantime, reports received are to the effect that there are even vehicle studies going on now at the FINS.

In addition to the NPS, there are others who would also like to put the beach buggy fisherman off the beach. Many of them could be classified as others who also use the beach and would prefer to have it to themselves. Then there are those who believe the claims of the NPS that buggies cause erosion and all manner of horrors to the environment. They believe it because there is a need for voices to tell them it is not true. This is not to say that a beach buggy is not capable of doing damage: it can, and they have. Reasonable regulations combined with education of the novice beach buggy operator and strict enforcement would resolve these problems. In the meantime, responsible magazines such as the LIF, the LIBBA, GSBMS and FINSAB will try to fill this void, while opposing the NPS plans to harass responsible beach buggy fishermen. As this is being written, the NPS is preparing plans to further limit beach buggy access at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

For those surf fishermen who plan to own a beach buggy sometime in the future, your future may well be decided on Fire Island. This struggle has national significance. The NPS knows it and all the beach buggy associations of the Atlantic Coast know it. For those beach buggy owners are who not affiliated with a beach buggy association, you are doing yourself and your fellow fishermen a disservice as your voice is not being heard; you are not represented and you are not pulling your weight. The final chapter of the FINS struggle is still to be written. The above organizations will be fighting to keep the FINS open and even if they lose, they will keep fighting to re-open it. Once you have had a beach buggy to fish from there is comparison to the success, convenience and pleasure it brings, while making those inaccessible sections of beach available to you. Then there are some of us who are just too damn old to walk.

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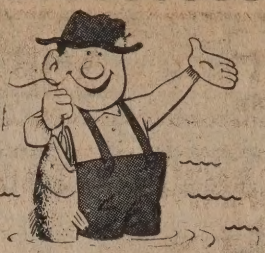

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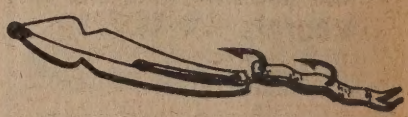

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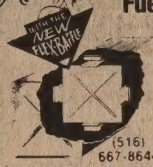

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Surf Side: IT'S A START!

(Continued from page 12.)

like to hoof it, proceed west until you arrive at the fence at the Lilco outflow at Northport. Here you can either fish in the discharge itself or the bar to the north.

High outgoing water is the preferred tide, but if this period does not coincide with your time off, this area can be fished at low water, too. When the tide has receded sufficiently, a bar will appear between the stone jetty and the wooden pier. Wade out onto the bar and fish the area from the center to the right front. The falling tide can also be followed at the discharge as a bar forms along both sides of the outflow.

Northwest winds are preferred along this shore because it pushes the heated water and, therefore, the fish along the beach. Southerly winds are acceptable, but when the wind blows from the east, stay home.

The equipment described for Little Neck Bay can be employed here also, with the lone exception being that bank sinkers should be used because of the rocky bottom. If you intend to fish the bars at low water, a pair of waders is recommended and an eye on the rising tide is a must.

Although the temperature may seem mild after the bitter winter weather, long periods of inactivity associated with bottom fishing will allow the chill to penetrate light clothing. The water is cold and the warmth generated by the sun quickly dissipates after sunset, so dress warm. If you are comfortable, you'll be able to hang in there longer increasing your chances of success.

As the end of April approaches, the warmer water temperatures will allow the bass to spread throughout the waters of Long Island Sound. The techniques used in these two areas will continue to produce in the varied shore line of the North Shore. Before long, the bait fish will appear and another full-fledged season will be upon us.

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THUR	—	12:12	12:21	12:53	12:18	12:55	1:09	1:51	2:52	3:26	3:01	3:39	—	12:16	3/30
FRI	12:44	1:16	1:23	2:00	1:19	1:59	2:15	3:00	3:52	4:36	4:05	4:45	12:45	1:20	3/31
SAT	1:48	2:25	2:34	3:13	2:25	3:07	3:24	4:10	5:06	6:19	5:12	5:53	1:51	2:24	4/1
SUN	2:57	3:35	3:44	4:22	3:33	4:15	4:34	5:13	6:51	7:41	6:21	7:00	2:56	3:28	4/2
MON	4:04	4:39	4:51	5:25	4:41	5:16	5:37	6:12	8:08	8:42	7:27	7:59	3:57	4:26	4/3
TUE	5:05	5:35	5:50	6:20	5:42	6:11	6:38	7:05	9:08	9:35	8:28	8:54	4:52	5:18	4/4
WED	5:57	6:21	6:44	7:09	6:35	7:00	7:31	7:51	9:59	10:21	9:21	9:44	5:45	6:07	4/5
THUR	6:45	7:06	7:33	7:55	7:23	7:45	8:19	8:36	10:47	11:06	10:11	10:31	6:32	6:54	4/6

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— ^ 20
Truman Beach	U 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4/1	5:43	6:25
4/6	5:35	6:31
4/11	5:27	6:36
4/16	5:19	6:42
4/21	5:11	6:48
4/26	5:03	6:53

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
4/7	4/15	4/23	4/29

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs.	9:25	**3:50**	10:00	**4:15**
Fri.	10:30	**4:45**	10:55	**5:15**
Sat.	11:30	**5:40**	11:40	**6:10**
Sun.	—	**6:30**	12:20	**7:00**
Mon.	12:40	**7:20**	1:15	**7:50**
Tues.	1:30	**8:10**	2:05	**8:35**
Wed.	2:20	**9:00**	2:50	**9:20**
Thurs.	3:10	**9:40**	3:35	**10:05**

The BUCKTAIL STICK®

New Graphite Speed® Stick G66S is the rod 3 million salt water fishermen need

Bucktailing is probably the most versatile and popular form of salt water fishing. You can fish an ol' deer hair jig from boat, beach, bridge or jetty and catch just about anything that swims. Yet, even as popular as bucktailing has become, choosing the proper rod has been an angler's nightmare for years. Well, the search is over, now there's a rod designed especially for the serious salt water bucktail fisherman . . . the G66S Graphite Speed Stick.

Just look at these outstanding components.

The G66S features one foot Fuji guides throughout. They're lighter, faster and less restrictive to the blank. The handle system features fast change reel seating. A few quick twists and the reel is attached, secured and ready for action with no exposed metal parts. Super comfortable rubber composition grip stays warm in the hand.

The G66S is the magic bucktail action for 1/8 to 1 oz. lures on 6 to 12 lb. line.

Whether you're pussyfooting across the Florida flats for bonefish or howling with excitement in a school of crashing blues off the Jersey Coast, the G66S is the *only* rod you'll ever need because it's built to handle *any* light tackle bucktail, plug or jig fishing situation. Team it up with a medium size salt water spinning reel, tie on a bucktail or jig and you've got the perfect outfit for sea trout, stripers, blues, fluke, snook or bonefish.

Rod tag pictured; application pending

The G66S is just one of the great Speed Team products. See all the rest in our colorful new Fishing Tackle Catalog . . . yours for $1.00.

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